

Cinder Peak Treeline Transect - Second Season Report

The Meridian Gazette | Environment desk

This report records the second full walk of the Cinder Peak treeline transect, a fixed line of thirty-six plots that the Meridian Gazette environment desk has followed since the transect was established. Every station is revisited twice a season, at the opening of the melt and again at its close, and each is reported below in the same order and the same shape: position, stand age from the oldest cored stem, stem density over the fixed plot, canopy closure, and any damage found. Nothing in this report is interpolated - a station with no reading is reported as having none.

Station T-01, Larch Hollow. The plot sits at 1197 metres on a north-east aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 67, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 53 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 39 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-02, Cold Saddle. The plot sits at 1214 metres on a east aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 74, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 66 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 50 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-03, Wind Gap. The plot sits at 1231 metres on a south-east aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 81, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 79 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 61 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-04, Slate Bench. The plot sits at 1248 metres on a south aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 88, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 92 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 72 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-05, Fern Steps. The plot sits at 1265 metres on a south-west aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 95, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 105 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 83 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-06, Iron Cirque. The plot sits at 1282 metres on a west aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 102, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 118 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 34 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-07, Blue Screes. The plot sits at 1299 metres on a north-west aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 109, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 41 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 45 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-08, Otter Shelf. The plot sits at 1316 metres on a north aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 116, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 54 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 56 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-09, Hawthorn Rise. The plot sits at 1333 metres on a north-east aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 123, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 67 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 67 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-10, Quarry Notch. The plot sits at 1350 metres on a east aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 130, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 80 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 78 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-11, Pale Meadow. The plot sits at 1367 metres on a south-east aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 137, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 93 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 29 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-12, Raven Spur. The plot sits at 1384 metres on a south aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 144, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 106 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 40 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-13, Birch Landing. The plot sits at 1401 metres on a south-west aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 151, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 119 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 51 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-14, Frost Bowl. The plot sits at 1418 metres on a west aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 158, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 42 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 62 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-15, Sundial Knoll. The plot sits at 1435 metres on a north-west aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 165, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 55 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 73 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-16, Elder Basin. The plot sits at 1452 metres on a north aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 172, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 68 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 84 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-17, Copper Ledge. The plot sits at 1469 metres on a north-east aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 179, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 81 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 35 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-18, Willow Draw. The plot sits at 1486 metres on a east aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 66, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 94 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 46 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-19, Chalk Terrace. The plot sits at 1503 metres on a south-east aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 73, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 107 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 57 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-20, Stone Fold. The plot sits at 1520 metres on a south aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 80, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 120 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 68 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-21, Marten Col. The plot sits at 1537 metres on a south-west aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 87, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 43 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 79 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-22, Amber Flat. The plot sits at 1554 metres on a west aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 94, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 56 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 30 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-23, Juniper Bank. The plot sits at 1571 metres on a north-west aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 101, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 69 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 41 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-24, Thistle Reach. The plot sits at 1588 metres on a north aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 108, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 82 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 52 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-25, Kestrel Brow. The plot sits at 1605 metres on a north-east aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 115, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 95 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 63 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-26, Moss Corner. The plot sits at 1622 metres on a east aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 122, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 108 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 74 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-27, Granite Step. The plot sits at 1639 metres on a south-east aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 129, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 121 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 85 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-28, Heron Pool. The plot sits at 1656 metres on a south aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 136, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 44 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 36 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-29, Silver Bight. The plot sits at 1673 metres on a south-west aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 143, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 57 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 47 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-30, Alder Cleft. The plot sits at 1690 metres on a west aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 150, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 70 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 58 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-31, Cinder Verge. The plot sits at 1707 metres on a north-west aspect, on blocky scree, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 157, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 83 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 69 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-32, Glass Shoulder. The plot sits at 1724 metres on a north aspect, on peaty gley, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 164, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 96 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 80 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as old wind snap. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-33, Nettle Bay. The plot sits at 1741 metres on a north-east aspect, on sandy loam, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 171, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 109 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 31 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as browsing on leaders. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-34, Rowan Head. The plot sits at 1758 metres on a east aspect, on fractured schist, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 178, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 122 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 42 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as frost crack. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-35, Peat Landing. The plot sits at 1775 metres on a south-east aspect, on clay till, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 65, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 45 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 53 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as none recorded. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Station T-36, Lantern Edge. The plot sits at 1792 metres on a south aspect, on shallow podzol, and was walked once in the first week of the season and once again at its close. The oldest cored stem at this station returned a ring count of 72, which is the figure the transect uses when it speaks of stand age here. Stem density over the fixed ten-by-ten-metre plot came to 58 stems, counted alive and standing only, so the deadwood tallied separately is not included in that number. Canopy closure measured 64 percent by densiometer, averaged over the four cardinal readings taken from the plot centre. Damage at the station was recorded as light bark-beetle scarring. The plot was photographed from its north-west corner on both visits, and the two photographs are archived with the survey rather than reproduced in this report.

Across the full transect the season's clearest pattern was that canopy closure fell with elevation while stand age did not, which the desk reads as recruitment failing at the upper stations rather than the older stands there dying back. The transect will be walked again next season on the same schedule.