**Before the Next Census**

Written by 2023 field crew

Big Picture Planning

* Have app completely tested and finalized before data collection begins. This caused a lot of idiosyncratic errors in the 2023 data.
* We suggest completely separating mortality from the census, and having a different team hired to do it. Also one person alone will likely not be enough to complete the mortality census.
* Pace for census should be calculated on a stems per day basis not quadrats per day (see calculating pace section below for more details)

Data and in the App

* Remove things that have been Dead not found (DN) for three censuses
* Add WR code to 2023 stems with comment “wire removed” or “WR”, if there was a code WR in the previous census keep it in the 2023 data
* Add TR code to stems with comment “tag removed”or “tag removed from field”
* Remove the entire tree with code tag removed (TR) and secondary stems from the data used to make the field app
* Include 2023 comments in the field app for the next census/next mortality survey (for certain quadrats this will be super necessary!)
* Change species (comment is usually the string “species is not \_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_”, where \_\_\_= species code, or “species is \_\_\_\_ is not \_\_\_\_\_”)
* Add status G to multi stems where the first stem is dead but there are other stems (is this code still going to be used?), carry over status G from previous censuses, G means main stem is gone but secondary stems are living (note, should this only be used in the field app since it may confuse data analysis?)
* For dead trees (DS, DC or DN), include the last measured DBH

QAQC Checks

* Add a check for do secondary stems have same quadrat as stem 1
* Add check for detecting missing hom value (or in the app make it so that hom can be typed in or auto populated, the hom\_alert field was not ideal)

Field

* Replace all the tags using the tag replacement machine in radio tracking lab and the replace tag map, replace tag list is on github 2023 repository in doc > data cleaning folder (we also have a replace tag map on the ipads)
* Re-spray and flag all rebars close to the start of the census (spray yellow not blue), some need to be replaced
  + Consider replacing the rebar with taller rebar/pvc pipe or by adding tall flags to each rebar before the next census to ensure it’s visible from the opposite side of the quadrat

Calculating Pace

* Allow 1 month for training
* Use pace of 150 stems/person/day and updated stem count (i.e. how many stems after TR and repeated DN stems are removed) to calculate how many days + people necessary
* Days for correcting errors/inclement weather will need to be accounted for (~2-4 days a month for errors)
* Schedule: train in the north section then go to south spicebush areas while they don’t have leaves, do the deer exclosure as soon as leaves are out in order to make species id easier, then go to the north section while there are still leaves, finish in the southeast spicebush corner