

Methods

The experiment should not be conducted less than 2 weeks after a prescribed burn to avoid any recovery bias. In the recently burned site, at least 15 dung pellets (or other standardized amount of dung) are placed on the ground. Within an hour, the same amount of dung is placed in an unburned site, <50 meters away from the burned site. A trail camera should be positioned directly above the dung pellets (less than a meter away), with the picture focused on the pellets. The trail camera should be programmed to take one picture per minute. Cameras should be turned on directly after setting out the dung pellets, commencing the experiment. After 24 hours, the experiment is over – cameras are removed and SD cards are reviewed for dung beetle behavior metrics. Metrics are a) event of dung removal, b) the amount of dung removed, c) the latency until first removal, d) time at first removal.