

## **Protocol for Collecting Vegetation Data – 2012**

### **During land/nest-searching:**

- Record veg data directly on the map for each distinct strip/habitat type that is surveyed.
- List habitat type (e.g., fallow bare), vegetation height (cm), and % bare ground.
  - Use ruler to measure veg height at  $\geq 1$  “average” location in the strip/field (i.e., not at the edge of the field or at the lowest or highest veg). If veg height appears quite variable, measure at several locations and record the average.
  - Again, at an “average” location: picture a 1 m<sup>2</sup> box (or make one with wooden stakes) on the ground. Looking directly down at the ground, record how much of the area is bare soil or is otherwise suitable nesting or brooding substrate for MOPL. For example, very tiny gravel within a bare dirt area would be suitable and would count as “bare”, but larger rocks or large clumps of soil (result of tillage operations) would not count.
- Record data on the Land Search Datasheet and enter data into Access.

### **During nest visits:**

- List habitat type (e.g., fallow bare), vegetation height (cm), and % bare ground.
  - Measure as above, but record the average veg ht and bare ground reading in four directions from the nest.
  - Measure at radial distance from the nest of 1 m, 5 m, and 10 m.
- Record data on the Nest Visit Datasheet and enter data into Access.