Plot Master (Circular Plot)

9/2008

Project:_____ State phase name:_____

State phase ID:_____ **Plot replicate no**:_____ Landowner field or stand ID (optional):_____

Random plot number:_____

Plot, Terrain, and Location

Plot setup by _____
Date _____
Recorder _____
On-plot strata to be sampled:
Kind_____ ID_____
Kind_____ ID_____

Map unit symbol _____
Component name _____
Slope _____% Aspect _____°
Shape: Up_____ Across_____
Ecological site name _____
_____
ES number _____

Plot size: Radius _____ m or ft
Location (of plot center):
Easting (m) _____
Northing (m) _____
Projection (circle one):
UTM or Latitude/ Longitude
Datum (circle one): NAD83 Other___
UTM zone _____
Elevation: GPS _____m or ft?
Topo _____m or ft?
Topo (Quad) ID_____

FS habitat type _____

Soil description (primary, commonly at plot center)
(1 per plot to rock or 2 m)
User pedon ID_____

FIPS codes for project

County _____ Code _____
County _____ Code _____
County _____ Code _____
County _____ Code _____

Sample Locations and ID

Stratum-soil replicate ID	Azimuth from plot center	Distance from plot center (m)	Easting (m)	Northing (m)	User pedon ID ex. S07IDxxx-xxx

Ground Cover Clip Plot

V1				
V2				
V3				

Completed Sampling Checklist – Vegetation Forms (no. per plot)

Photo record (1)_____ Site index (1)_____

Overstory veg.(1)_____ Understory veg.(1)_____ Understory/groundcover (1)_____

Notes

Completed Sampling Checklist: Soil field forms and samples

Recorder _____Date _____

Stratum- soil replicate ID	No. of horizons	Soil sample _FOREST form	SOILS-232 or NASIS Pedon	Woody debris transect	Surface disturbance transect		Samples collected		
							Bulk density	Lab analysis	

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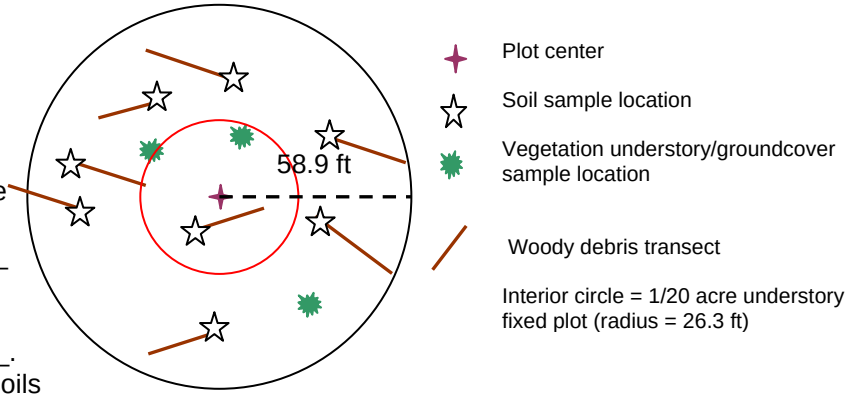
Plot layout instructions-Forest.

1. Mark plot center point with labeled stake and enter information on the Plot Master for plot, terrain, and location. The same plot center will be used for the variable radius overstory vegetation plot, the ¼ acre overstory vegetation fixed radius plot (58.9 ft radius), the 1/20 acre understory vegetation fixed radius plot (26.3 ft radius), and site index measurement.
2. Make a detailed soil description, preferably at the plot center, and record the primary soil description ID on the Plot Master.
3. From plot center use prepared list of random azimuths and distances to locate soil sample locations. Evaluate each potential point in order using **Plot acceptance criteria**. Mark acceptable locations with flags until the required number are located and enter sample location information on Plot Master. The flags will be pre-labeled with the appropriate **Stratum-soil replicate ID** (e.g., W1, W2… for woody and H1, H2,… for herbaceous stratum)
4. Soil sample locations will also serve as the origin for woody debris transects and surface disturbance transects.
5. Continue using azimuths and distances list to locate three points that meet acceptance criteria to use for understory/groundcover cover estimation and clipping. Mark with flags (labeled V1 through V3) and record location information on Plot Master.

¼ acre plot



Plot acceptance criteria.
Evaluate potential plots in order as they appear on the potential points list.

- Plots are > 1 mile apart.
- Only 1 plot per polygon.
- Plot boundaries are > 30 m from state phase and soil map unit boundaries and roads.
- Plant community is _____
- Aspect is between _____° and _____°.
- Slope is _____to _____ %.
- Soil component is _____.
- Plot boundaries are > 20 m from dissimilar soils
- Habitat type is _____.

Plot photos and vegetation.
Hang photocard at plot center. Take photo of card and one photo in each cardinal direction (5 total). Record photo information on Photo Record.
Complete data sheets for vegetation as listed on Plot Master.

Soil sampling protocol at soil sample locations.
At each soil sample location, record the Visual Disturbance Class and cover attributes, collect a forest floor sample, describe and sample soil to ~ 40* cm. Measure penetration resistance at each sample location. Collect a root biomass sample if applicable. * or to depth specified in workplan.

Completed sampling checklists.
Use the sampling checklists to keep track of work completed on each plot.

Woody debris transect (optional).
Brown's protocol. Includes collection of whole and rotten wood sample from each size class found in the transect.

1. Do transects without trampling soil sample locations.
2. Use soil sample location as origin and proceed in direction of randomly selected azimuth.
3. Complete one for each soil sample location.

Sample bag needs and destinations table. Complete the table prior to field work.

Analysis	Horizons to sample	Amount (g)	Bag type	Number of bags	Bags from	Send samples to