SITE SET-UP

ESTABLISHING THE MONITORING AREA

Choose an area that contains representative vegetation of the common shrubs and trees at your location. This area will typically be less than 100 x 100 yards, but large enough to encompass 4 to 8 survey circles that are ideally spaced 25 yards apart. If working with a small area, it is okay for the circles to be close together. These circles may be arrayed in a loose grid, a line, or some combination depending on the configuration of vegetation at the site. Each of the 4 circles should be centered on a representative bush or small tree that has leaves available for inspection. *To increase comparability between sites, we WILL NOT be sampling grasses and herbaceous plants.*

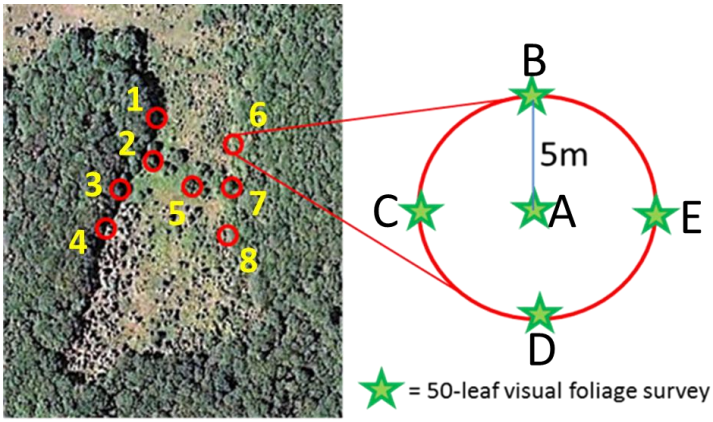

Figure 1. Example of a site with 8 survey circles distributed across it. Each circle consists of 5 survey locations.

SELECT THE TREES WITHIN THE MONITORING AREA

Each circle will consist of 5 survey locations labeled *A* (in the center), and *B-E* as illustrated above. While the center point for a survey circle may be chosen based on subjective criteria (seems like a good general location for surveys, vegetation is representative, etc), survey locations *B-E* should be located in each of the 4 cardinal directions. In order to select these survey points, abide by the following steps:

1. **Select the center point**: When selecting the center point, A, it is important to choose a tree that can be easily surveyed. You are in search of a tree that has at least 50 leaves that measure 5cm (~2in.) in length. Therefore, choose a tree that has a relatively high abundance of leaves. If finding 50 leaves to survey proves to be a challenge then you are probably better off choosing another tree. It is also important that the leaves are at a height that is easily accessible. Using a ladder is not a practical way to gather data, so these should be leaves that you can see at eye-level.

2. **Find trees B-E**: Once you have selected A, walk 5 yards (approximately 6-7 steps) in one of the cardinal directions. It is best to do this with a compass. The first plant with 50 leaves that are at least 5cm (~2in.) in length is the plant that you should survey. If there is not a plant directly in front of you, then you can use a plant that sits within 10ft. of your transect line. If there is no suitable vegetation at 5 yards and within 10 feet, continue walking along your transect line away from the center point until you find a tree with 50 leaves. Repeat this process until you have picked out trees B-E.

3. **Mark trees A-E**: Once you have selected plants A-E, tag them with an appropriate, weather-proof marker. This could be anything from flagging tape to metal tree tags. Label each tree with the appropriate marker that reads the tree species, the number of the survey circle, and the letter that the tree corresponds with inside the survey circle. Place the tags in a visible location so that they can be easily found during your subsequent surveys.

This tree has been labeled to denote survey E in the 3rd survey circle. The tree species was identified and written on the tag so that we do not have to re-identify the tree every time we survey.