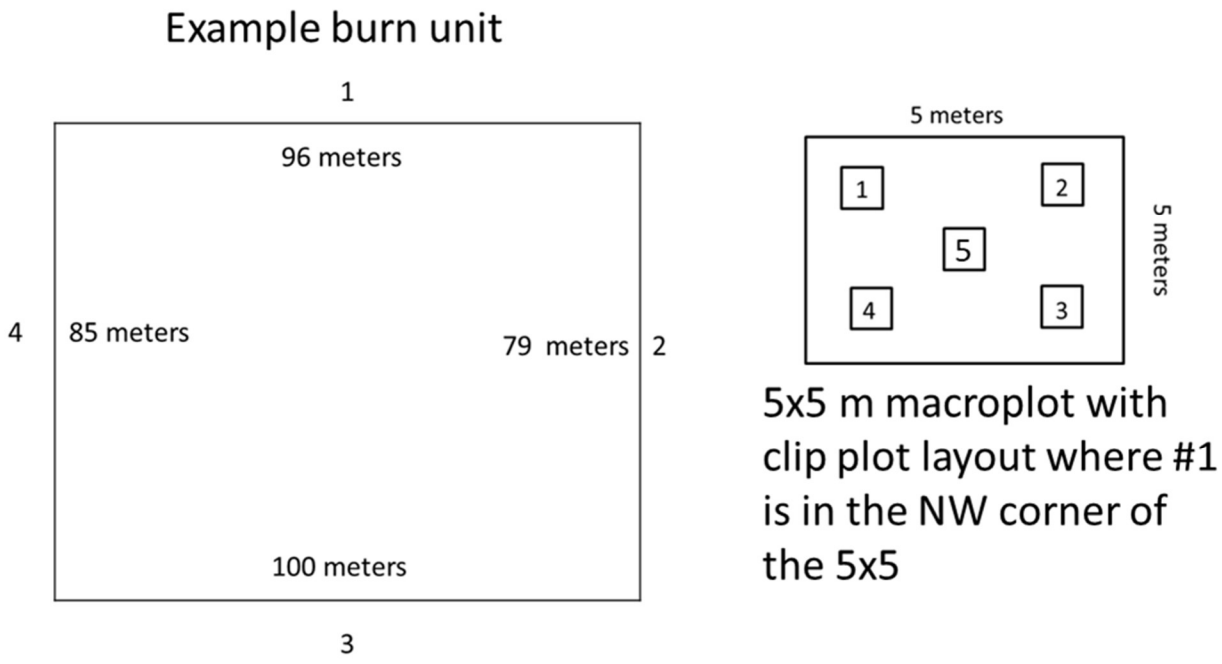
The Osceola National Forest long-term winter burn plots, installed in the early 1960s, are an invaluable resource for research and education. The plots are just east of Ocean Pond off FS road 266. They are burned on 1-, 2-, and 4-year rotations, and there are also unburned plots. The following page shows the layout of the burn plots.

E	Check	1 yr	4 yr	2 Yr
A	2 Yr	Check	1 yr	4 yr
F	1 yr	4 yr	Check	2 Yr
C	4 yr	1 yr	2 Yr	Check
B	4 yr	2 Yr	1 yr	Check
D	Check	2 Yr	1 yr	4 yr

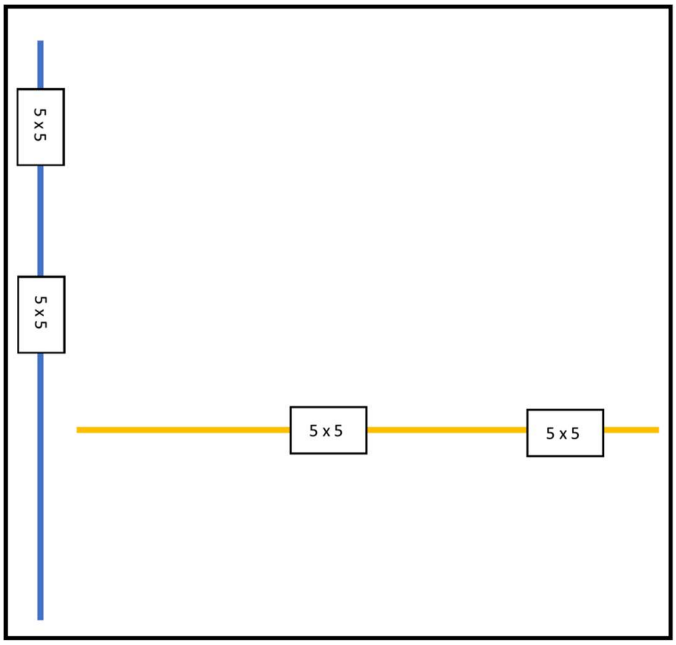
Example of setting up transects, macroplots, and clip plots in a burn unit

Each burn unit area and edge length differs due to plow line migration over the years. In 2017, the edge lengths ranged from 70 to 106 meters. Using the 2017 lengths, we can randomly establish a starting point for a transect. Below is an example layout of a burn unit where 1- 4 is used to randomly assign an edge, and meters are the length of each plot edge.



1. Randomly selected edge 4 of the burn unit, which means the edge transect will run south to north and the interior west to east.
2. For the edge transects and plots
    a. 7 meters is the randomly selected distance between 5 and 10 meters to travel into the burn unit on that edge.
    b. Edge 4 is 85 meters long. To create a 5-meter buffer from edges, numbers between 5 and 80 will be randomly chosen. 40 and 70 meters are selected.
        i. Along edge 4, from south to north, a 5x5 macroplot will be located 40 and 70 meters along the edge, 7 meters into the burn unit.
    c. Randomly assign pre-burn and one post-burn status to the macroplots and label accordingly
    d. All corners of the 5x5 macroplots are marked with conduit.
    e. The center plot (5) is always sampled. Use 1-4 to randomly choose a second clip plot, where 1 =NW, 2 = NE, 3 = SE, and 4 = SW. In this example, clip plot 3 is selected for the pre-burn 5x5, and clip plot 1 is selected for the post-burn 5x5.
        i. Mark the NW corner of the two clip plots with conduit.
3. For the interior transects and plots
    a. Use the same randomly selected edge as a starting point. The length of edge 4 is 85 meters. To create a 15-meter buffer from edges, a number between 15 and 70 will be randomly chosen. In this case, it is 36 meters. Starting at edge 3, travel up 36 meters along edge 4.
    b. Randomly select two distances into the burn unit to place the 5x5 macroplots. Here, edge 3 is closest and is 100 meters. To create a 15-meter buffer from all edges, numbers will be randomly chosen between 15 and 85. 42 and 80 meters are selected.
        i. Along edge 4 and 36 meters from edge 3, is the start of the interior transect that runs west to east. Here, a 5x5 macroplot will be located at 42 and 80 meters into the burn unit.
    c. Randomly assign pre-burn and one post-burn status to the macroplots and label accordingly

d. All corners of the 5x5 macroplots are marked with conduit.
e. The center plot (5) is always sampled. Use 1-4 to randomly choose two more clip plots, where 1 =NW, 2 = NE, 3 = SE, and 4 = SW. In this example, clip plots 1 and 3 are selected for the pre-burn 5x5, and clip plots 1 and 4 are selected for the post-burn 5x5.
    i. Mark the NW corner of the two clip plots with conduit.



Blue line = edge transect

Along edge 4, from south to north, a 5x5 macroplot will be located at 40 and 70 meters along the edge 7 meters into the burn unit.

Yellow line = interior transect

This transect runs west to east. The start of the transect is along edge 4 and 36 meters from edge 3. Here a 5x5 macroplot will be located at 42 and 80 meters into the burn unit.