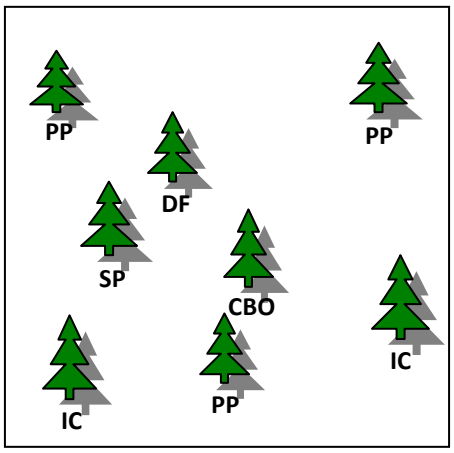
DETERMINING SPECIES COMPOSITION

One of the basic skills needed in forestry is determining species composition. Species composition is a determination of the tree species present in one place in the forest and their proportion to each other.

First, it is necessary to be able to identify the species that you would expect to find in a particular forest. For whichever event you are attending, you will need to be able to identify the list of species given on the Learning Resources page.

A 1/10 acre square plot will be used. You will see four stakes in the ground, forming a square with 66 foot sides. You will walk through the plot and identify each tree with a DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) of 10 inches or more. The test will have a space for you to write each species and tally the number of trees of each species that are present in the plot. Here is an example:



The test will have the following text:
"*The area marked on its corners with stakes and flagging tape is one square chain, or 1/10 acre. Conduct a Species Composition Survey on this plot by identifying and counting by species all trees with a DBH of 10 inches or more.*"

The answer for this plot would be as follows:

Species: Ponderosa Pine # trees: 3

Species: Incense Cedar # trees: 2

Species: Sugar Pine # trees: 1

Species: Douglas Fir # trees: 1

Species: California Black Oak # trees: 1

This site is **PINE** dominant.