

APPENDIX 7 -- GLOSSARY

Accessible Forest Land -- Land that is within sampled area (the population of interest), is accessible and can safely be visited, and meets at least one of the two following criteria:

The condition is at least 10-percent stocked by trees of any size (appendix 3) or has been at least 10-percent stocked in the past. Additionally, the condition is not subject to nonforest use(s) that prevent normal tree regeneration and succession such as regular mowing, grazing, or recreation activities,

ACTUAL LENGTH -- For trees with broken or missing tops. The actual length of the tree is recorded to the nearest 1.0 ft from ground level to the highest remaining portion of the tree still present and attached to the bole. If the top is intact, this variable may be omitted. Forked trees should be treated the same as unforked trees.

Agricultural Land -- Land managed for crops, pasture, or other agricultural use. Evidence includes geometric field and road patterns, fencing and the traces produced by livestock or mechanized equipment. The area must be at least 1.0 ac in size and 120.0 ft. wide at the point of occurrence.

Annular Plot -- A circular, fixed area plot with a radius of 59.0 ft. Annular plots may be used for sample intensification or for sampling relatively rare events.

ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION SPECIES -- Indicates the predominant species that is planted or seeded in an artificially regenerated condition.

Bay forests – These forests are restricted to coastal depressions or floodplains where saturated conditions prevail. Surface flooding is common, but usually is not persistent. They occur exclusively in the Coastal Plain Physiographic province, and range from Maryland to southeast Texas.

Blind Check – A re-installation done by a qualified inspection crew without production crew data on hand; a full re-installation of the plot for the purpose of obtaining a measure of data quality. The two data sets are maintained separately. Discrepancies between the two sets of data are not reconciled. Blind checks are done on production plots only.

Bogs – Peatlands usually lacking an overlying layer of mineral soils. They occur primarily in formerly glaciated areas of the Northeastern U.S., the north-central states, and Canada and often develop in deep glaciated lakes. Bogs are characterized by evergreen trees and shrubs and are often covered by sphagnum moss.

Bole -- The main stem of a tree, extending from one foot above the ground to the point on the tree where DOB reaches 4 inches.

Boundary -- The intersection of two or more conditions on a subplot or microplot. Each boundary is described by recording the azimuth and horizontal distance from the subplot or microplot center to the left and right points of where the boundary intersects the perimeter of the subplot or microplot. An azimuth and distance to a corner point may also be described, if one exists. If multiple boundaries exist at a subplot, they are recorded in the order of their occurrence on the subplot, starting from north and proceeding around the compass.

Carolina bays – Elliptical depressions of the southeastern Coastal Plain which are consistently oriented in a northwest-southeast direction and many of which contain shrub bog communities. They occur predominantly in the coastal areas of South Carolina and in southeastern North Carolina.

Census Water -- Rivers and streams that are more than 200 ft wide and bodies of water that are greater than 4.5 acres in size.

Certification plot – A plot installed by a certification candidate. It may be a training plot or a production plot. The candidate working alone installs the plot.

Clearcut – The cutting of all merchantable trees from an area. Often leaves a large number of unsalable trees.

Cold Check – An inspection done either as part of the training process, or as part of the ongoing QC program. Normally the installation crew is not present at the time of inspection. The inspector has the completed data in-hand at the time of inspection. The inspection can include the whole plot or a subset of the plot. Data errors are corrected. Cold checks are done on production plots only.

CONDITION CLASS -- The combination of discrete landscape and forest attributes that identify and define different strata on the plot. Examples of such attributes include condition status, forest type, stand origin, stand size, owner group, reserve status and stand density.

Cropland -- Land under cultivation within the past 24 months, including orchards and land in soil improving crops, but excluding land cultivated in developing improved pasture.

CROWN CLASS -- A classification of trees based on dominance in relation to adjacent trees within the stand as indicated by crown development and the amount of sunlight received from above and sides.

CUBIC-FOOT CULL -- An assessment of the rotten, missing, or otherwise defective portions of a tree bole that are unsuitable for industrial wood products. Cubic-foot cull is expressed as a percentage of the entire bole.

Cull -- Portions of a tree that are unusable for industrial wood products because of rot, form, or other defect. (See cubic-foot cull.)

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) -- The diameter of the bole of a tree at breast height (4.5 ft above the ground), measured outside of the bark.

Diameter at Root Collar (DRC) -- The diameter of a tree measured at the ground line or stem root collar, measured outside of the bark.

Diameter Outside Bark (DOB) -- A diameter that may be taken at various points on a tree, or log, **outside** of the bark. Diameter Outside Bark is often estimated.

Face -- A section of the tree surface (usually within the butt sixteen feet) that is $\frac{1}{4}$ of the circumference of the tree and extending the full length of the log.

Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) -- A unique code identifying U.S. States and counties (or units in Alaska).

Forest Industry Land -- Land owned by companies or individuals that operate wood-using plants.

Forest Land -- Land that is at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or land formerly having such tree cover, and is not currently developed for a nonforest use. The minimum area for classification as forestland is one acre. Roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber must have a crown width at least 120 ft wide to qualify as forestland. Unimproved roads and trails, streams and other bodies of water, or natural clearings in forested areas shall be classified as forest, if less than 120 ft in width or an acre in size. Grazed woodlands, reverting fields, and pastures that are not actively maintained are included if the above qualifications are satisfied. (Also see definitions of nonforest land, idle farmland and improved/maintained pasture.)

Forest Trees -- Plants having a well-developed, woody stem and usually more than 12 ft in height at maturity.

FOREST TYPE -- A classification of forestland based upon the trees or tree communities that constitute the majority of stocking on the site.

GPS -- Global Positioning System. Information from this system is collected and used to determine the latitude and longitude of each plot.

Hardwoods -- Dicotyledonous trees, usually broad-leaved and deciduous.

Hot Check – An inspection normally done as part of the training process. The inspector is present on the plot with the trainee and provides immediate feedback regarding data quality. Data errors are corrected. Hot checks can be done on training plots or production plots.

Idle Farmland -- Former cropland or pasture that has not been tended within the last 2 years and that has less than 10 percent stocking with live trees.

Improved Pasture -- Land that is currently maintained and used for grazing. Evidence of maintenance, besides the degree of grazing, includes condition of fencing, presence of stock ponds, periodic brush removal, seeding, irrigation, or mowing.

Inclusion -- An area that would generally be recognized as a separate condition, except that it is not large enough to qualify. For example, a ½-acre pond within a forested stand.

Industrial Wood -- All roundwood products, except firewood.

Inspection Crew – A crew of qualified QC/QA individuals whose primary responsibility is the training, certification and inspection of production crews.

Land Area -- As defined by the Bureau of the Census: The area of dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water such as marshes, swamps, and river flood plains (omitting tidal flats below mean tide); streams, sloughs, estuaries and canals less than 200 ft in width, and ponds less than 4.5 acres in area.

Limbs -- That part of a tree above the stump that does not meet the requirements for sawlog and upper-stem portions, including all live, sound branches to a minimum of 4 inches DOB at the knot collar.

Maintained Road -- Any road, hard topped or other surfaces, that is plowed or graded periodically and capable of use by a large vehicle. Rights-of-way that are cut or treated to limit herbaceous growth are included in this area.

Marsh -- Low, wet areas characterized by heavy growth of weeds and grasses and an absence of trees.

Measurement Quality Objective (MQO) -- Describes the acceptable tolerance for each data element. MQOs consist of two parts: a statement of the tolerance and a percentage of time when the collected data are required to be within tolerance.

Merchantable Sawtimber Top -- The point on the bole of sawtimber trees above which a sawlog cannot be produced. Minimum merchantable top is 7.0 inches DOB for softwoods and 9.0 inches DOB for hardwoods.

Microplot -- A circular, fixed-radius plot with a radius of 6.8 ft that is used to sample trees less than 5.0 inches at DBH, as well as other vegetation.

National Forest Land -- Federal lands which have been legally designated as National Forests or purchase units, and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service, including experimental areas and Bankhead-Jones Title III lands.

Native American (Indian) Land -- Tribal lands held in fee, or trust, by the Federal government but administered for Indian tribal groups and Indian trust allotments. This land is considered “Private Lands”, Owner Group 40.

Net volume -- Gross volume less deductions for rot, sweep, or other defect affecting use for timber products.

Non-census Water -- Bodies of water from 1 to 4.5 acres in size and water courses from 30 ft to 200 ft in width.

Nonforest Land -- Land that does not support, or has never supported, forests, and lands formerly forested where use for timber management is precluded by development for other uses. Includes areas used for crops, improved pasture, residential areas, city parks, improved roads of any width and adjoining rights-of-way, power line clearings of any width, and noncensus water. If intermingled in forest areas, unimproved roads and nonforest strips must be more than 120 ft wide, and clearings, etc., more than one acre in size, to qualify as nonforest land.

Nonstockable -- Areas of forestland that are not capable of supporting trees because of the presence of rock, water, etc.

Other Federal Lands -- Federal land other than National Forests. These include lands administered by the USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI National Park Service, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, Department of Energy, Army Corps of Engineers, and military bases.

Overgrown Knot -- The scar left in the bark by a limb that has been completely overgrown, but still outlined by the circular configuration in the bark.

OWNER CLASS -- A variable that classifies land into fine categories of ownership.

OWNER GROUP -- A variable that classifies land into broad categories of ownership; Forest Service, Other Federal Agency, State and Local Government, and Private. Differing categories of Owner Group on a plot require different conditions.

Phase 1 (P1) -- FIA activities done as part of remote-sensing and/or aerial photography.

Phase 2 (P2) -- FIA activities done on the network of ground plots formerly known as FIA plots.

Phase 3 (P3) -- FIA activities done on a subset of Phase 2 plots formerly known as Forest Health Monitoring plots. Additional ecological indicator information is collected from Phase 3 plots.

Plot -- A cluster of four subplots that samples approximately 1/6 acre. The subplots are established so that subplot 1 is centered within the sample and the centers of subplots 2, 3, and 4 are located 120 ft from the center of subplot 1 at azimuths of 360, 120, and 240 degrees, respectively. Each subplot has an associated microplot and annular plot

Pocosins – Freshwater wetland ecosystems characterized by broadleaved evergreen shrubs or “low” trees, commonly including pond pine, and commonly growing in areas of highly organic soils (peats) that have developed in areas of poor drainage. Their present range of occurrence is the Atlantic Coastal Plain from southern Virginia to northern Florida.

PRIVATE OWNER INDUSTRIAL STATUS -- Indicates whether Private land owners own and operate a wood processing plant.

Production Crew – A crew containing at least one certified individual. The crew is involved in routine installation of plots.

Production Plot – A plot that belongs to the 6000-acre grid database. It may also be used for training purposes.

REGENERATION STATUS -- A stand descriptor that indicates whether a stand has been naturally or artificially regenerated.

Regional Drift – The tendency for standards, methods and interpretations to drift apart over time as each unit implements the FIA core protocol.

Reserved Land -- Land that is withdrawn from timber utilization by a public agency or by law.

RESERVE STATUS -- An indication of whether the land in a condition has been reserved.

Rotten Cull Tree -- A live tree with less than 1/3 of its gross board-foot volume in logs that meet size, soundness and grade requirements, and more than 1/2 of the board-foot cull is due to rot. Or, a live pole timber size that prospectively will have less than 1/3 of its gross board-foot volume in logs that

meet size, soundness and grade requirements, and more than 1/2 of the board-foot cull is due to rot.

Rough Cull Tree -- A live tree with less than 1/3 of its gross board-foot volume in logs that meet size, soundness and grade requirements, and more than 1/2 of the board-foot cull is due to sound defects such as sweep, crook, etc. Or, a live poletimber size that prospectively will have less than 1/3 of its gross board-foot volume in logs that meet size, soundness and grade requirements, and more than 1/2 of the board-foot cull is due to sound defects such as sweep, crook, etc.

Roundwood Products -- Logs, bolts or other round sections cut from trees for industrial or consumer uses. (Note: includes sawlogs veneer logs and bolts; cooperage logs and bolts; pulpwood, fuelwood; pilings; poles; posts; hewn ties; mine timbers; and various other round, split, or hewn products.)

Saplings -- Live trees 1.0 to 4.9 inches DBH.

Seedlings -- Live trees less than 1.0 DBH that are at least six inches above the ground for all conifers and 12 inches above the ground for all hardwoods.

Site Class -- A classification of forestland that indicates the potential capacity to grow crops of industrial wood based on fully stocked natural stands.

Softwoods -- Coniferous trees, usually evergreen having needles or scale-like leaves.

Sound Knot or Limb -- Knots or limbs that are intergrown, or encased, with the surrounding wood, and that show no signs of decay. Bark may not be present on the limbs.

STAND AGE -- A stand descriptor that indicates the average age of the live trees not overtopped in the predominant stand size-class of a condition.

STAND DENSITY -- A stand descriptor that indicates the relative tree density of a condition class. The classification is based on the number of stems/unit area, basal area, tree cover, or stocking of all live trees in the condition which are not overtopped, compared to any previously defined condition class tree density.

STAND SIZE -- A stand descriptor that indicates which size-class of trees that are not overtopped constitutes the majority of stocking in the stand.

State, County and Municipal Lands -- Lands owned by states, counties, and local public agencies or municipalities, or lands leased to these government units for 50 years or more.

Stocking -- The relative degree of occupancy land by trees, measured as basal area or the number of trees in a stand by size or age and spacing, compared to the basal area or number of trees required to fully utilize the growth potential of the land; that is, the stocking standard.

Subplot -- A circular, fixed-area plot with a radius of 24.0 ft. Each subplot represents $\frac{1}{4}$ of the fixed plot sample unit.

Swamps – Wet areas dominated by woody shrubs and trees, some with hardwoods such as red maple and ashes and others with softwoods like cedar and spruce. Willows, alders, shrubby dogwoods, and buttonbush dominate shrub swamps. Some shrub swamps are permanent, while others slowly transform to forested swamps.

TOTAL LENGTH -- The total length of the tree, recorded to the nearest 1.0 ft from ground level to the tip of the apical meristem. For trees growing on a slope, measure on the uphill side of the tree. If the tree has a broken or missing top, the total length is estimated to what the length would be if there were no missing or broken top. Forked trees should be treated the same as unforked trees

Training Plot – A plot established for training or certification purposes only. It does NOT belong to the 6000-acre grid database.

Transition Zone -- An area where a distinct boundary between two or more different conditions cannot be determined.

Upper Stem Portion -- The part of the bole of sawtimber trees above the sawlog top to a minimum top diameter of 4.0 inches DOB or to the point where the central stem breaks into limbs.