



GLOSSARY

Active Ratio. The ratio of the crown fire rate of spread to the critical crown fire rate of spread. The fire may be an active crown fire if the active ratio value is greater than or equal to one.

Affected Environment. The natural, physical, and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes due to proposed actions.

Age Classes. Intervals (commonly 10 years) into which the age range of a tree crop is divided; also trees falling into such an interval.

Air Quality. Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act, P.L. 88 206: Jan. 1978

Airshed. A geographical area that, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air.

Alternative. A mix of management prescriptions applied to specific land areas to achieve a set of goals and objectives. Each alternative represents a different way of achieving a set of similar management objectives. Sometimes the term "action alternative" is used when it is desirable to recognize that there is a "no action" alternative under which the proposed activity would not take place.

Analysis Area. In contrast with implementation/project area, which is comprised of and defined by the general area in which activities are proposed under the various alternatives, the analysis area varies by resources and issues. It is defined by the area and resources which could potentially be affected or influenced by proposed activities.

Aspect. The cardinal direction in which a slope faces.

Basal Area per Acre (BA/ac). Cross section of surface area of trees at breast height measured in square feet. BA/ac represents trees taller than breast height (4.5').

BEHAVE. A software application to predict wildland fire behavior for fire management purposes. It is designed for use by fire and land managers who are familiar with fuels, weather, topography, wildfire situations and the associated terminology.

Best Management Practices. A set of practices which, when applied during implementation of a project, ensures that water-related beneficial uses are protected and that State water quality standards are met.

Big Game. Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

Biological Assessment. An evaluation conducted on Federal projects requiring an environmental impact statement, in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. The purpose of the assessment is to determine whether the proposed action is likely to affect an endangered, threatened, or proposed species

Biological Evaluation. An evaluation conducted on Forest Service projects in accordance with Forest Service policy. The purpose is to determine whether any of the project alternatives are likely to affect threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Biophysical Settings (Bps). Land delineations based on the physical setting of an area – elevation and aspect – and the potential vegetation community that can occupy a specific environmental

setting. BPS describes the environmental setting, and land capability, to support a specific ecosystem.

Bulk Density. Used to measure soil compaction. The mass of dry soil per unit volume, corrected for weight and volume of coarse fragments greater than 2 millimeters in diameter, often expressed as grams per cubic centimeter.

Canopy Base Height. For modeling in Behave Plus, canopy base height refers to understory ladder fuels and the main canopy layer for a stand of trees

Canopy Bulk Density. Mass of available canopy fuel per unit canopy volume of a stand

Canopy Closure. The progressive reduction of space between tree crowns as they spread laterally; a measure of the percent of potential open space occupied by the collective tree crowns in a stand.

Canopy Cover. The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees and other woody growth. Layers of canopy may be called stories. Canopy cover refers to the spacing between plants in the dominant vegetation type. It is a measure of the coverage of tree crowns in a stand, as a percentage of the land area.

Cavity. The hollow, excavated in snags by birds; used for roosting and reproduction by many birds and mammals.

Chains/h. Chains per hour (1 chain = 66 ft)

Channel Morphology. The physical form and structure of a stream channel as a product of a complex set of variables operating within a watershed. Any imposed changes upon these variables can result in changes to the natural structure of the stream.

Classified Road. A road constructed or maintained for long-term highway vehicle use. Classified roads may be public, private or forest development.

Closed Canopy. The condition that exists when the canopy created by trees or shrubs or both is dense enough to exclude most of the direct sunlight from the forest floor.

Closed Road. A National Forest road or segment which is restricted from certain types of use during certain seasons of the year. The prohibited use and the time period of closure must be specified. The closure is legal when the Forest Supervisor has issued an order and posted it in accordance with chapter 36 of the CFR section 261.

Coarse Filter. The coarse filter desired condition is to maintain a diversity of habitats for a full range of wildlife species while meeting other resource desired conditions and ecological processes which alter or maintain habitat structure and function (USDA 1998). The coarse filter objective is to retain representative habitats and seral stages and, therefore, the population viability for the majority of species within the diversity of habitats that the Big Belt Mountains provide.

Coarse Woody Debris. Dead wood greater than 3 inches in diameter or 1000-hr timelag fuels.

Colluvium. A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually at the foot of a slope or cliff and brought there by gravity.

Compaction. A physical change in soil properties from compression, vibration, or shearing that increases soil bulk density and decrease porosity, air exchange, root penetration, soil filtration, and permeability.

Conditional Crown Fire. A fire that burns as a crown fire if it enters the stand as a crown fire from an adjacent stand

Conifer. Any of a group of needle and cone-bearing evergreen trees.

Connectivity. This refers to the abundance and spatial patterning of habitat and to the ability of members of a population to move from patch to patch of similar habitat.

Corridor. A narrow strip, stepping stones, or a series of stepping stones of hospitable territory traversing inhospitable territory providing access from one area to another. Corridors fall into five general categories:

- Biogeographic - Continental scale, function is evolution and distribution
- Season Migration – continental to local scale; function is behavioral and physiological for ecological survival
- Dispersal and Emigration – scale varies by species; function is use of unoccupied habitat, maintain current habitat, optimal fitness
- Travel – scale is within a home range; function is daily life history requirements
- Invasive – all scales

Cover. Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators, breeding and rearing of young (hiding cover), or to ameliorate conditions of weather (thermal cover).

Cover/forage Ratio. The ratio, in percent, of the amount of area providing cover as compared to that providing forage.

Critical Crown Rate of Spread. Critical rate of spread necessary to maintain active crown fire.

Critical Surface Intensity. Surface fire intensity needed to transition to a crown fire.

Critical Surface Flamelength. Surface fire flamelength associated with critical surface intensity as needed to transition to a crown fire.

Crown Fire. A fire that spreads in the canopy of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire.

Crown ROS. Forward spread rate of the crown fire; indicates a sustained run over several hours that includes spotting.

Cultural Resources. The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric, or social values. More commonly referred to as Heritage Resources.

Cumulative Effect. The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other actions. Cumulative impacts can also result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Decadent. Deteriorating; when used in reference to stand condition there are inferences of the loss of trees from the overstory and of the presence of disease, or indications of loss of vigor in dominant trees so that the mean annual increment is negative.

Decision Area. The geographic area defining the scope of this document and the alternatives proposed by it.

Denning Site. A place of shelter for an animal; also where an animal gives birth and raises young.

Detrimental Soil Disturbance. Soil which is physically or chemically altered to the degree that vegetative production and health is assumed to be adversely affected.

Diameter at Breast height (DBH). The diameter of the tree measured at 4.5 feet up the tree trunk.

Diversity. The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area.

Duff. An organic surface soil layer, below the litter layer, in which the original form of plant and animal matter cannot be identified with the unaided eye.

Dominant. Plant species or species groups which, by means of their numbers, coverage, or size, influence or control the existence of associated species. Also, individual animals which determine the behavior of one or more other animals, resulting in the establishment of a social hierarchy.

Dual Use. Roads available for full size and off-highway vehicles. Not necessary to meet State licensing requirements.

Early seral stage. First vegetative response to a disturbance. It can have various dominant lifeforms.

Ecological Landscape Unit. Areas which on a broad scale portray zones of common climate, elevation, and orientation. The composition is further refined into Landtype Associations, which reflect common landforms, bedrock geology, and watershed characteristics and fairly accurately define potential vegetative communities.

Ecosystem. An interacting natural system including all the component organisms together with the abiotic environment.

Ecotone. The overlap or transition zone between two plant communities.

Ectomycorrhizae. A symbiotic union between a fungus and plant root, especially conifers, with specific characteristics. These "special" roots are critical to the ability of conifers to thrive in relatively infertile, dry, or competitive environments.

Edge. An edge is the juxtaposition of contrasting environments in an ecosystem. This term is commonly used in conjunction with the boundary between natural habitats, especially forests, and disturbed or developed land.

Effects (impacts). Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

Elk Analysis Area. An area within the National Forest boundary used by a herd of elk throughout the year. This includes summer and winter range and all areas in between. This also includes any private land that occurs within the National Forest boundary (i.e.inholdings).

Elk Herd Unit. The total area used by a herd of elk in the course of one years' movement from summer to winter range. This includes areas outside the National Forest boundary.

Elk Security Areas. A measure of vulnerability during the hunting season and are based on the availability of large areas (>250 acres) more than ½ mile from open roads.

Elk Hiding Cover. A stand of coniferous trees having a crown closure of greater than 40 percent.

Elk Summer Range. Range, usually at higher elevations, used by elk during the summer; a summer range is usually much more extensive than a winter range.

Elk Thermal Cover. Vegetation used by elk to modify the adverse effects of weather. A forest stand that is at least 40 feet in height with tree canopy cover of at least 70 percent provides thermal cover. These stand conditions are achieved in closed sampling-pole stands and by all older stands unless the canopy cover is reduced below 70 percent. Deciduous stands may serve as thermal cover in summer but not in winter.

Elk Winter Range. Winter range is identified generally as those areas under 6000 feet in elevation. It is usually at lower elevation and used by elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.

Emigration. The behavior of individuals or populations of animals leaving an area to settle elsewhere.

Endangered Species. Any plant or animal species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Environment. The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

Environmental Analysis. An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable environmental effects, including physical, biological, economic, and social consequences and their interactions; short- and long-term effects; direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Environmental Impact Statement. A detailed statement prepared by the responsible official in which a major Federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action provided, and effects analyzed.

Ephemeral Streams. Streams that flow only as a direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events. They have no baseflow.

Epidemic. The populations of plants, animals, and diseases that build-up, often rapidly, to highly abnormal and generally injurious levels.

Erosion. Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of activities of people, animals, or natural catastrophes.

Evapotranspiration. The process of water loss by leaf surface evaporation and the replacement of that water from soil back to stem and leaf. The more leaf surface available, the greater the water removal from the soil.

Federal Register. A daily publication which reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

Fine Filter. The fine filter desired condition is to maintain the diversity and population viability of a species, which may not be adequately managed through the coarse filter.

Fine Woody Debris. Dead wood less than 3 inches in diameter or 1-, 10-, and 100-hr timelag fuels

Fire Dependent Ecosystems. Ecosystems that have evolved with fire over millennia and often include species with special adaptations to fire.

Fire Type. surface (S), torching (T, [passive crown fire]), or crowning (C, [active crown fire])

Fireline Intensity. A quantitative measure that describes the rate of heat release per unit time per unit length of the linear fire front.

Flamelength. Within the flaming front, the length of the flame of a spreading surface fire; a function of fire intensity that influences the effect on vegetation.

FOFEM. First Order Fire Effects Model. A computer program for predicting tree mortality, fuel consumption, smoke production, and soil heating caused by prescribed fire or wildfire.

Foliar Moisture. Moisture content of overstory foliage; one of the attributes used to determine transition from surface to crown fire; 100% refers to mature foliage with new growth complete.

Forage. Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly big game wildlife and domestic livestock.

Forest Land. Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use.

Forest Type. The tree species that currently dominates a site.

Fragmentation. A change in landscape structure that leads to smaller patch sizes, less interior habitat, and greater distances between patches which in turn can lead to subpopulation isolation. It is generally attributed to human activity rather than to natural disturbances.

Fuels. Combustible materials present in the forest which potentially contribute a significant fire hazard.

Fuels Management. Manipulation or reduction of fuels to meet Forest protection and management objectives while preserving and enhancing environmental quality.

Fuel Model. A cohesive set of parameters that define the necessary inputs to the fire spread model.

Habitat. The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species.

Habitat Component. A simple part, or a relatively complex entity regarded as a part, or an area or type of environment in which an organism or biological population normally lives or occurs.

Habitat Type. An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax.

Head Month. For grazing fee purposes, a head month (HM) is a month's use and occupancy of rangeland by one weaned or adult cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro or mule, or 5 sheep or 5 goats.

Healthy Ecosystem. A healthy ecosystem is one which structure and functions allow the maintenance of the desired condition of biological diversity, biotic integrity, and ecological processes (Kaufman, et al. 1994).

Heritage Resources. The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric, or social values. Also referred to as Cultural Resources.

Immigration. The behavior of individuals or populations of animals moving into an area to settle there.

Implementation Area. As used in this document, essentially synonymous with project area, which is comprised of and defined by the general area in which activities are proposed under the various alternatives. Contrast with analysis area.

Indirect Effects. Secondary effects which occur in locations other than the initial action or significantly later in time.

INFISH. Short form for Inland Native Fish Strategy. INFISH amended Forest Plans to ensure conservation practices are applied in applicable watersheds until the Columbia River Basin EIS is completed.

INFRA. A computer application where Forests can enter, manage, and report accurate information and associated financial data on the inventory of their constructed features – features such as buildings, dams, bridges, water systems, roads, trails, developed recreation sites, range improvements, administrative sites, heritage sites, general forest areas and wilderness.

Interdisciplinary Team. A group of resource professionals with different expertise that collaborate to develop and evaluate resource management decisions.

Intermittent Stream. A stream which flows sporadically during the summer months, with occasional surface flows interrupted by stretches with subsurface flows.

Inventoried Roadless Area. An area officially delineated under the Forest Plan roadless inventory. On the Helena National Forest, these roadless areas include all lands which were originally designated, regardless of subsequent management actions such as road building or timber harvest, that have occurred since the Forest Plan consideration.

Juxtaposition. To place, or compare, side by side.

Ladder Fuels. Fuels that provide vertical continuity between surface and canopy fuels; an example would be conifer seedlings and saplings

Live Fuel Moisture. Herbaceous and live woody fuels; 100% refers to mature foliage with new growth complete.

Landscape. The aspect of the land that is characteristic of a particular region or area.

Landtype. A unit of land with similar designated soil, vegetation, geology, topography, climate and drainage. The basis for mapping units in the land systems inventory.

Late Seral Stage. Vegetative condition that can last for decades with no or moderate disturbance that doesn't remove the entire overstory.

Litter. An organic surface soil layer usually composed of identifiable leaves, branches, other vegetative material, and animal remains.

Loess. A blanket deposit of buff-colored calcareous silt - homogeneous, nonstratified, weakly coherent, porous and friable.

Low to moderate intensity fires. Fires that don't kill many mature trees.

Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU). The LAU is a project analysis unit upon which direct, indirect, and cumulative effects analyses are performed.

Lynx Habitat. Lynx habitat occurs in mesic coniferous forest that experience cold, snowy winters and provide a prey base of snowshoe hare. In the northern Rockies, lynx habitat is generally occurs between 3,500 and 8,000 feet of elevation, and primarily consists of lodgepole pine, subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. It may consist of cedar-hemlock in extreme northern Idaho, northeastern Washington and northwestern Montana, or of Douglas fir on moist sites at higher elevations in central Idaho. It may also consist of cool, moist Douglas fir, grand fir, western larch and aspen when interspersed in subalpine forests. Dry forests do not provide lynx habitat.

Management Area. Geographic areas, not necessarily contiguous, which have common management direction, consistent with the Forest Plan allocations.

Management Direction. A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

Map Units. A polygon on a map that is made up of similar resource characteristics.

Mean Fire Interval. Mean of all fire intervals in a given area for a specified period of time

Metapopulation. A group of populations, usually of the same species, which exist at the same time but in different places.

Mi². Miles squared

Mi/mi². Miles per mile squared

Midflame Windspeed. The windspeed at midflame height above the fuelbed; also referred to as eye-level winds.

Mid Seral Stage. Vegetative condition that occurs from several years to decades after the early seral stage, depending on the biophysical setting.

Mitigation. Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Monitoring and Evaluation. The evaluation, on a sample basis, of Forest Plan management practices to determine how well objectives are being met, as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

NEPA Process. An interdisciplinary process, mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, which concentrates decision making around issues, concerns, alternatives and the effects of alternatives on the environment.

No Action Alternative. The No Action alternative is required by regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1502.14). The no action alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives. Where a project activity is being evaluated, the no action alternative is defined as one where no action or activity would take place.

Nonstocked. A stand of trees or aggregation of stands that have a stocking level below the minimum specified for meeting the prescribed management objectives.

Non-system Road. Another name for an unclassified road.

Noxious Weeds. Rapidly spreading plants that can cause a variety of major ecological impacts to both agriculture and wild lands.

Old Growth Habitat. Old growth is a distinct successional stage in the development of a timber stand that has special significance for wildlife, generally characterized by: (1) large diameter trees (often exceeding 19" dbh) with a relatively dense, often multilayer canopy. (2) the presence of large, standing dead or dying trees. (3) down and dead trees, (4) stand decadence associated with the presence of various fungi and heartrots, (5) and an average age often in excess of 200 years.

Open Canopy. The canopy created by trees and/or shrubs that is open enough to permit a percentage of sunlight to hit the forest floor. This percentage varies by biophysical setting.

Open Road Density. Generally used relative to a standard set in the Forest Plan that is applied to most Management Areas important to big game. Also used to address overall effects of open roads on wildlife.

Overstory. The portion of trees in a forest which forms the uppermost layer of foliage.

Passive Crown Fire. See torching

Patch. A unit of measure for determining effects to wildlife connectivity. A patch is an area that is greater than ½ mile from an open road regardless of size of area.

Perennial Streams. Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

Portal. An entry point on to National Forest System lands.

Potential Lynx Habitat. Habitat based on mapping parameters described within the Lynx Conservation and Assessment Strategy not delineated as either denning or foraging habitat.

Preferred Alternative. The agency's preferred alternative, one or more, that is identified in the impact statement (40 CFR 1502.14).

Prescribed Burning. The intentional application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state under such conditions as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to further certain planned objectives (ie: silviculture, wildlife management, reduction of fuel hazard, etc.)

Project Area. As used in this document, essentially synonymous with implementation area, which is comprised of and defined by the general area in which activities are proposed under the various alternatives. Contrast with analysis area.

Project File. An assemblage of documents that contains all the information developed or used during an environmental analysis. This information may be summarized in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement.

Potential Vegetation Community. The environmental setting and the landscape's capability to generate the structure, function, and composition of ecosystems. This term is used interchangeably with potential natural vegetation.

Record of Decision. A concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale used by the deciding officer to reach that decision.

Reference Condition. An estimate of the central tendency of the range (HRV) of succession class composition, fire frequency, and fire severity for a biophysical unit within a landscape project area.

Reforestation. The natural or artificial restocking of an area with forest trees. It may include tree planting and seeding measures to obtain natural regeneration.

Refugia. Large, contiguous areas encompassing the full array of seasonal habitats and are relatively secure from human development.

Regeneration. The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. This term may also refer to the crop (seedlings, saplings) itself.

Residence Time. The total length of time that the flaming front of the fire occupies one point.

Resiliency. Resiliency is the ability to recover quickly to conditions and relationships existing prior to a disturbance, e.g. wildfire (Hollings, 1973).

Richness. Species richness is the number of different species in a given area

Riparian. Area with distinctive soil and vegetation between a stream or other body of water and the adjacent upland; includes wetlands and those portions of floodplains and valley bottoms that support riparian vegetation.

Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. Portions of watersheds where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines.

Road. A wide range of definitions have been used, however, for this document the definition from the Forest Transportation Planning Rule: designated motorized travelways over 50 inches wide, unless designated as a trail.

Savannah. A more or less open woodland having an undergrowth mainly of grasses.

Scarification. Physical disturbance of surface soil horizons, usually to improve germination and early survival of natural seed-based regeneration. This disturbance is not excessive enough to be considered detrimental soil disturbance.

Scoping. The procedures by which the Forest Service determines the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action, i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed, identification of significant issues related to a proposed action, and establishing the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed.

Scorch Height. Height above the ground that the temperature in the convection column reaches the lethal temperature to kill live crown foliage.

Sediment. Any material carried in suspension by water, which will ultimately settle to the bottom. Sediment has two main sources: from the channel area itself and from disturbed sites.

Sediment Yield. The amount of material eroded from the land surface by runoff and delivered to a stream system.

Seedlings and Saplings. Non-commercial-size young trees, generally occurring in plantations.

Sensitive Species. Those species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in (a) population numbers or density, or (b) habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Seral Stage. A transitory or developmental stage of a biotic community in an ecological succession (does not include climax successional stage or pioneer stage).

Shrub. A plant with persistent woody stems and relatively low growth form; usually produces several basal shoots as opposed to a single bole; differs from a tree by its low stature and nonarborescent form.

Size Class. Meaningful groups of tree diameters.

Slash. The residue left on the ground after felling and other silvicultural operations and/or accumulating there as a result of storm, fire, girdling, or poisoning of trees.

Slash Burning. The treatment or burning of slash so as to reduce fire or insect hazards.

Slope. The ratio between the amount of vertical rise of a slope and horizontal distance

Snag. A standing dead tree usually without merchantable value for timber products, but may have characteristics of benefit to some cavity nesting wildlife species.

Soil Hydrologic Function. The process of soil absorbing, storing, and releasing precipitation – either rain or snow melt.

Species. A unit of classification of plants and animals consisting of the largest and most inclusive array of sexually reproducing and cross-fertilizing individuals which share a common gene pool. in a percent

Spotting. Embers that are transported ahead of the zone of direct ignition of the main fire that start new fires.

Stand. A community of trees or other vegetation uniform in composition, constitution, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities.

Standard. A particular action, level of performance, or threshold specified by the Forest Plan for resource protection or accomplishment of management objectives. Unlike "guidelines" which are optional, standards specified in the Forest Plan are mandatory.

Stand Replacement Fires. Fires that kill the majority of the mature trees.

Stream-route Interactions. Sites in a watershed are stream crossings or roads adjacent to a stream as depicted in the spatial analysis.

Succession. The progression of change in the composition, structure, and processes of a plant community through time.

Successional Stage. A stage or recognizable condition of a plant community which occurs during its development from bare ground to climax.

Surface Fire. A fire that burns close to the ground surface including dead branches, leaves, and low vegetation.

Surface Erosion. The detachment and transport of soil particles by wind, water, or gravity. Surface erosion is the loss of soil in a fairly uniform layer across the land surface (sheet erosion), in many small rills, or as larger gullies.

Summer Habitat Effectiveness (Elk). The percentage of available habitat that is usable by elk during the summer and is related to the ability of habitat to meet elk needs for growth and welfare requirements.

Sustainability. Sustainability means that desired ecological conditions or flows or benefits can be maintained over time (A National Framework Ecosystem Management, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC, 1994)

System Road. Another name for classified road.

Threatened Species. Any species of plant or animal which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Tiering. The use of a previously written environmental document with a broad scope to cover discussion of issues common to both.

Torching. A fire that burns a single tree or group of trees, also known as passive crown fire.

Transition Ratio. The ratio of the surface fireline intensity to the critical surface fireline intensity. A transition ration that is greater than or equal to one indicates surface fireline intensity sufficient to transition to crown fire.

Twenty-foot Winds. Wind speed and direction at 20 feet above the height of the top of the vegetation

Unclassified Road. A road that is not constructed, maintained, or intended for long-term highway vehicle use, such as roads built for temporary access and other remnants of short-term-use roads associated with fire suppression; timber harvest; and oil, gas, or mineral activities; as well as travel-ways resulting from off-road vehicle use.

Unroaded Area. These areas are defined as unroaded blocks having a common boundary with an Inventoried Roadless. They must include at least 1000 acres and be over ¼ mile wide.

User-created Road. A road that has appeared on National Forest System land without Forest Service authorization. These roads were constructed through use and have no engineered features of drainage structures.

Ustic Moisture Regime. This term refers to a soil condition of limited moisture, but where the moisture is present at a time when conditions are suitable for plant growth.

Vegetation Type. This term is used to describe the dominant vegetative species.

Vegetative Response Unit (VRU). A VRU is a combination of potential habitat type, fire group, and slope class. The habitat types are those described for Montana by Pfister et al. (1977)

Vertical structure. The number of size (height) classes in a stand.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO). A system of indicating the potential expectations of the visual resource by considering the frequency an area is viewed and the type of landscape.

Visual Resource. The composite of landforms, water features, vegetative patterns and cultural features which create the visual environment.

Wildfire. Any wildfire not designated and managed as a prescribed fire with an approved prescription.

Wildlife Diversity. The relative degree of abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats or habitat features per unit area.

Wind Adjustment Factor. Adjusts the 20-ft windspeed to midflame windspeed depending on the sheltering of fuels from the wind.

- 0.1 - fully sheltered, dense stands
- 0.2 - fully sheltered, open stands
- 0.3 - partially sheltered
- 0.4 – unsheltered

Wolverine Natal Denning Habitat. Wolverine natal den habitat in the northern Rockies is strongly tied to high elevation and glaciated landscapes. Although cirques are used as natal denning habitat and may be preferred in most years, a given female that uses cirque basin one year will use other glaciated landforms in other years. Variable snow conditions may make other glaciated landforms, such as cirque headwalls, or avalanche chutes, more attractive as natal den sites in some years. Glaciated landscapes probably encompass most if not all natal den habitat in Region One (Hillis and Kennedy 2003).