

Caribou-Targhee NF

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Final Environmental Impact Statement

Caribou Revised Forest Plan
Glossary

Glossary

Glossary of Terms in the Final EIS

Abiotic. Non-living. Climate is an abiotic component of ecosystems.

Access Management. Management of the ingress and egress of people on National Forest System lands. Generally used to describe motorized use allowed.

Acre-foot. A measure of water or sediment volume equal to the amount which would cover an area of one acre to a depth of one foot (325,851 gallons).

Adaptive Management. A type of natural resource management that implies making decisions as part of an on-going process. Monitoring the results of actions will provide a flow of information that may indicate the need to change a course of action. Scientific findings and the needs of society may also indicate the need to adapt resource management to new information.

Administrative Use. Authorized vehicle use of otherwise closed roads and/or areas to carry out forest management activities. Including but not limited to access for prescribed burning, fish and wildlife habitat improvement, timber sales, personal use firewood. Also includes use by permittees to conduct authorized activities.

Aerial Logging. Removing logs from a timber harvest area by helicopter. Fewer roads are required, so the impact to an area is minimized.

Affected Environment. The natural environment that exists at the present time in an area being analyzed.

Age Class. An age grouping of trees according to an interval of years, usually 20 years. A single age class would have trees that are within 20 years of the same age, such as 1-20 years or 21-40 years and so on.

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

Allotment (Range Allotment). The area designated for use by a prescribed number of livestock for a prescribed period of time. Though an entire Ranger District may be divided into allotments, all land will not be grazed, because other uses, such as recreation or tree plantings, may be more important at a given time.

Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ). The amount of timber that may be sold from the area of suitable land covered by the Forest Plan for a time period specified by the Plan. This quantity is usually expressed on an annual basis as the "average annual allowable sale quantity."

Alluvial Fan. A body of unconsolidated material and debris flow, conical in shape, forming at the point where a stream emerges from a narrow valley onto a broader, less sloping valley floor.

Alternative. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision-making.

Analysis Area. See "Regional Analysis Area."

Animal Unit Month (AUM). The amount of forage required by one calf and her cow or 1 horse or 5 sheep for one month.

Appropriate Management Response. The specific actions taken in response to a wildland fire to implement protection and fire use objectives.

Appropriate Suppression Response. The suppression actions taken in terms of kind, amount, and timing on a wildland fire that most efficiently meet Fire Management direction under the current and expected burning conditions.

Aquatic Ecosystem. The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities and the habitat features that occur therein.

Aquatic Habitat Types. The classification of instream habitat based on location within channel, patterns of water flow, and nature of flow controlling structures. Riffles are divided into three habitat types: low gradient riffles, rapids, and cascades. Pools are divided into seven types: secondary channel pools, backward pools, trench pools, plunge pools, lateral scour pools, dammed pools, and beaver ponds. Glides possess attributes of both riffles and pools and are characterized by moderately shallow water with an even flow that lacks pronounced turbulence.

Aquatic Influence Zone. Used in the context of a land management prescription, the area encompassing aquatic and riparian ecosystems and adjacent lands which directly affect the hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological processes controlling aquatic and riparian ecosystem health and function.

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates. Invertebrates living within aquatic systems that are large enough to be seen with the naked eye, i.e. most aquatic insects.

Aquifer. A body of rock that is saturated with water or transmits water. When people drill wells, they tap water contained within an aquifer.

Aspect. The direction a slope faces. A hillside facing east has an eastern aspect.

Assessment. The Renewable Resource Assessment required by the Resources Planning act (RPA).

Avoidance Areas. Areas having one or more physical, environmental, institutional or statutory impediments to corridor designation. These are two types of avoidance areas:

Discretionary -- areas that may be crossed by corridors only if necessary and reasonable mitigation or avoidance of significant impacts can be obtained.

Nondiscretionary -- areas that may not be crossed by corridors unless authorized by the appropriate official (for example, Governor, President, etc.)

Background. The visible terrain beyond the foreground and middleground where individual trees are not visible but are blended into the total fabric of the stand. (See "Foreground" and "Middleground".)

Backslope. The component of the hill slope that forms the steepest inclined surface and is frequently the principal element. The surface is dominantly steep and linear in profile and erosional in origin.

Bark Beetle. An insect that bores through the bark of trees to eat the inner bark and lay its eggs. Bark beetles are important killers of forest trees.

Basal Area. The area of the cross section of a tree trunk near its base, usually 4.5 feet above the ground. Basal area is a way to measure how much of a site is occupied by trees. The term basal area is often used to describe the collective basal area or trees per acre.

Base Sale Schedule. A timber sale schedule formulated on the basis that the quantity of timber planned for sale and harvest for any future decade is equal to or greater than the planned sale and harvest for the preceding decade, and this planned sale and harvest for any decade is not greater than the long-term sustained-yield capacity. (This definition expresses the principle of nondeclining flow.)

Big Game . Those species of large mammals normally managed for sport hunting.

Bio-accumulation. The process whereby living plants or animals incorporate a substance into their tissues, thus introducing the substance into the food chain. Often refers to hazardous substances.

Biological Control. The use of natural means to control unwanted pests. Examples include introduced or naturally occurring predators such as wasps, or hormones that inhibit the reproduction of pests. Biological controls can sometimes be alternatives to mechanical or chemical means.

Biological Diversity. The number and abundance of species found within a common environment. This includes the variety of genes, species, ecosystems and ecological processes that connect everything in a common environment.

Biological Growth-Potential. The average net growth attainable in a fully stocked natural forest stand.

Biological Potential. The maximum possible resource output limited only by inherent physical and biological characteristics.

Biomass. The total weight of all living organisms in a biological community.

Biomass Residue. Organic matter that can be used to provide heat, make fuel, and generate electricity. Wood, the largest source of biomass, has been used to provide heat for thousands of years. Other sources of biomass include plants, and residue from forestry operations.

Biome. The complex of living communities maintained by the climate of a region and characterized by a distinctive type of vegetation. Example of biomes in North American include the tundra, desert, prairie, and the western coniferous forests.

Biota. The plant and animal life of a particular region.

Biotic. Living. Green plants and soil microorganisms are biotic components of ecosystems.

BMP (Best Management Practices). Practices designed to prevent or reduce water pollution. Also referred to as Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs).

Board Foot. The amount of wood equivalent to a piece one foot long by one foot wide by one inch thick. Generally, five board feet log measure is approximately equivalent to 1 cubic foot of round wood.

Broadcast Burn. Allowing a prescribed fire to burn over a designated area within well-defined boundaries for reduction of fuel hazard, improve forage for wildlife and livestock, or encourage successful regeneration of trees.

Borrow Source. An area from which sand, gravel, or stone is taken for use in another area.

Browse. Twigs, leaves and young shoots of trees and shrubs that animals eat. Browse is often used to refer to the shrubs eaten by big game, such as elk and deer.

Buffer. A land area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that may be undesirable. Buffers may be set aside next to wildlife habitat to reduce abrupt change to habitat.

Cable Logging. Logging that involves the transport of logs from stump to collection points by means of suspended steel cables. Cable logging reduces the need for the construction of logging roads.

Canopy. The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees and other woody growth. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest. The percent of a fixed area covered by the crown of an individual plant species or delimited by the vertical projection of its outermost perimeter; small openings in the crown are included.

Canopy Cover. Used to express the relative importance of individual species within a vegetation community or to express the canopy cover of woody species. Canopy cover may be used as a measure of land cover change or trend and is often used for wildlife habitat evaluations. (See Crown Closure).

Capability. The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices and at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils and geology, as well as the application of management practices, such as silviculture or protection from fire, insects and disease.

Capture (input). One of the ways functions are described; resources (organisms, materials, and energy) brought into the system (i.e., photosynthesis, migration, onto summer range, pollution brought in by wind or water.)

Cartographic Feature File. A data file containing the digital representation of all features, except contours, from a Primary Base Series map. Features are represented as line strings and points in ground coordinates with attribute information attached.

Catastrophic Condition. A significant change in forest conditions on the area that affects Forest Plan resource management objectives and their projected and scheduled outputs, uses, costs, and effects on local communities and environmental quality.

Cavity. The hollow excavated in trees by birds or other natural phenomena; used for roosting and reproduction by many birds and mammals.

Channel Depth. The average depth of channel from mean high water mark to mean high water mark used to define stream type, instream flow calculations and riparian management.

Channel Gradient. The slope of the stream channel expressed on a percent of rise per unit length. A measure of the drop in water surface elevation per unit length of channel. The difference in water surface or streambed elevation of two study sites on a stream divided by the distance between the study sites.

Channel Roughness. A measurement used to determine energy losses and velocities of natural stream channels by using water energy slope (channel slope), velocity and hydraulic radius.

Channel Stability Rating. A rating of stream channels resistance capacity to the detachment of bed and bank materials.

Chemical Control. The use of pesticides and herbicides to control pests and undesirable plant species.

Clean Air Act. (42 U.S.C. 7609) Section 309 provides authority for the Environmental Protection Agency to review other agency environmental impact statements.

Clearcutting. A harvest in which all or almost all of the trees are removed in one cutting. Regeneration then occurs from (a) natural seeding from adjacent stands, (b) seed contained in the slash or logging debris, (c) advance growth, or (d) planting or direct seeding. An even-aged forest usually results.

Climax. The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site where the vegetation has reached a highly stable condition.

Coarse Filter Management. Land management that addresses the needs of all associated species, communities, environments, and ecological processes in a land area. (See fine filter management.)

Collaborative Approach. A way of managing land by actively engaging the American public to foster understanding of the Forest Service mission and goals.

Collector Roads. These roads serve small land areas and are usually connected to a Forest System Road, a county road, or a state highway.

Commercial Forest Land (CFL). See "Timber Classification."

Commodity. A resource product for which a monetary value has been established.

Common (Class B) Landscape. Areas where features contain variety in form, line, color and texture combinations thereof, but which tend to be common throughout the character type and are not outstanding in visual quality.

Composition. What an ecosystem is composed of. Composition could include water, minerals, trees, snags, wildlife, soil, microorganisms, and certain plant species.

Concern. (Also management concern.) An issue, problem or condition which constrains the range of management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process.

Congressionally Classified and Designated Areas. See "Wilderness."

Conifer. A tree that produces cones, such as a pine, spruce, or fir tree.

Connected Actions. Closely related actions which automatically trigger other actions cannot proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for justification.

Connectivity (of habitats). The linkage of similar but separated vegetation stands by patches, corridors or "stepping stones" of like vegetation. This term can also refer to the degree to which similar habitats are linked.

Consistency. All resource plans and permits, contracts and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land must be consistent with the Forest Plan.

Consumptive Use. A use of resources that reduces the supply, such as logging and mining (See also nonconsumptive use).

Contour. A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same elevation.

Corridor. Elements of the landscape that connect similar areas. Streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows where wildlife feed.

Cost-efficiency. The usefulness of specified inputs (costs) to produce specified outputs (benefits). In measuring cost efficiency, some outputs, including environmental, economic, or social impacts, are not assigned monetary values but are achieved at specified levels in the least cost manner. Cost efficiency is usually measured using present net value, although use of benefit-cost ratios and rates-of-return may be appropriate.

Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ). The Council issues regulations binding on all federal agencies, to implement the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Quality Act. The regulations address the administration of the NEPA process, including preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for major federal actions which significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Cover. Any feature that conceals wildlife or fish. Cover may be dead or live vegetation, boulders, or undercut streambanks. Animals use cover to escape from predators, rest or feed.

Cover Class. Represents a percentage range for a fixed area covered by the crowns of plants. It is measured as a vertical projection of the outermost portion of the foliage. Cover Class A = less than 40 percent canopy cover; Cover Class B = 40-60 percent canopy cover; Cover Class C = greater than 60 percent canopy cover.

Cover-forage Ratio. The ratio of hiding cover to foraging areas for wildlife species.

Cover type (forested cover type). Stands of a particular vegetation type that are composed of similar species. The aspen cover type contains plants distinct from the pinyon-juniper cover type.

Created Opening. An opening in the forest cover created by the application of even-aged silvicultural practices.

Critical Habitat. Areas designated for the survival and recovery of federally listed threatened or endangered species.

Cross-country Travel. Travel over terrain not on designated roads and/or trails.

Crown Closure. See Canopy Cover.

Crown Fire. A fire that advances from top to top of trees and shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire.

Crown Height. The distance from the ground to the base of the crown of a tree.

Cultural Resource. The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by humans in the past -- historical or archaeological.

Cultural Sensitivity. Refers to the likelihood of encountering significant cultural volumes (quantity and/or quality) that may affect and may be affected by ground-disturbing activities.

Cumulative Actions. Actions which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts.

Cumulative Effects or Impacts. The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other action. Cumulative effects or impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Cutting Cycle. The planned lapse of time between successive cuttings in a stand.

Cycling. One of the ways functions are described; resources which are transported within the system (i.e., animal migration, nutrient cycling in a forest stand, snow melt becoming part of the surface or groundwater flow.)

d.b.h. Diameter at breast height. The diameter of a tree measured 4 feet 6 inches from the ground.

Dead and down material. Woody material (logs, etc.) laying on or near the ground. Necessary for soil productivity and wildlife habitat.

Decision Criteria. The rules and standards used to evaluate alternatives to a proposed action on National Forest land. Decision criteria are designed to help a decision maker identify a preferred choice from an array of alternatives.

Decking Area. A site where logs are collected after they are cut and before they are taken to the landing area where they are loaded for transport.

Decommissioning. Various levels of treatment leading to stabilization and restoration of transportation facilities that are no longer needed.

Decomposition Class. Any of the five stages of decomposition of logs left in the forest; stages range from essentially sound to almost total decomposition.

Deficit Timber Sale. A timber sale where the costs associated with producing the primary product(s) plus profit margin are greater than the selling value of the same product(s).

Defer (grazing). Delay livestock grazing until after seed set on the vegetation. In this area, usually August.

DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement). The draft version of the Environmental Impact Statement that is released to the public and other agencies for review and comment.

Dependent Communities. Communities whose social, economic or political life would become discernibly different in important respects if market or non-market outputs from the National Forests were cut off.

Designated Corridor. A linear area of land with defined and recognized boundaries identified and designated by legal public notice.

Desired Future Condition (DFC). Land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved. The DFC provides the framework to select appropriate standards and guidelines.

Detrimental Soil Disturbance. The condition where established threshold values for soil properties are exceeded and result in significant change.

Developed Recreation. Recreation that requires facilities that, in turn, result in concentrated use of the area. For example, skiing requires ski lifts, parking lots, buildings and roads. Campgrounds require roads, picnic tables and toilet facilities.

d.i.b. Diameter inside bark.

Dispersed Recreation. Recreation that does not occur in a developed recreation site, such as hunting, backpacking and scenic driving.

Distinctive (Class A) landscape . Areas where features of landform, vegetative patterns, water forms, and rock formations are of unusual or outstanding visual quality.

Disturbance. Any event, such as a forest fire or insect infestation that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem.

Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan. See also "Edge," "Horizontal Diversity," and "Vertical Diversity."

Drastically disturbed. Ground surface, usually on a large scale, that has been greatly disturbed or rearranged by such things as mining or digging, and appears very different from what it did before the activity.

Dredging. The process of excavating or removing material like silt, sand, or gravel, from underwater.

Early Forest Succession. The biotic (or life) community that develops immediately following the removal or destruction of vegetation in an area. For instance, grasses may be the first plants to grow in an area that was burned.

Ecological Approach. Natural resource planning and management activities that assure consideration of the relationship between all organisms (including humans) and their environment.

Ecological Classification. A multifactor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels of resolution, areas of land and water having similar characteristic combinations of the physical environment (such as climate, geomorphic processes, geology, soil and hydrologic function), biological communities (such as plants, animals, microorganisms, and potential natural communities), and the human dimension (such as social, economic, cultural, and infrastructure).

Ecological Land Classification and Mapping. An hierarchical, multi-factor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels or resolution, areas of land having similar capabilities and potentials for management. These areas of land are characterized by unique combinations of the physical environment, biological communities and human dimension.

Ecological Process. The actions or events that link organisms (including humans) and their environment, such as disturbance, successional development, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, productivity, and decay.

Ecological Status . The degree of similarity between the present community and the potential natural community on a site. Used to determine the ecological status of a plant community.

Ecological Subsection. A hierarchical level of inventory; lands with relatively uniform ecological potentials. Generally a mountain range.

Ecological Type (Habitat Type). A category of land having a unique combination of potential natural community; soil, landscape, features, climate and differing from other ecological types in its ability to produce vegetation and respond to management. Used to define land capability.

Ecological Unit. The map unit developed for an ecological type or types. This unit often includes a complex of small and intricately associated ecological types too small to delineate separately.

Ecology. The interrelationships of living things to one another and to their environment, or the study of these interrelationships.

Economic Efficiency Analysis. An analytical method in which incremental market and nonmarket benefits are compared with incremental economic costs.

Ecoregion. A continuous geographic area over which the macroclimate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites with similar properties. Ecoregions contain multiple landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems.

Ecoregion Code . Ecogeographic code that identifies land surface form and hydrologic unit maps of the U. S. by Bailey and Cushwa.

Ecosystem. An arrangement of living and non-living things and the forces that move among them. Living things include plants and animals. Non-living parts of ecosystems may be rocks and minerals. Weather and wildfire are two of the forces that act within ecosystems.

Ecosystem/Cover Type . The native vegetation ecological community considered together with non-living factors of the environment as a unit; the general cover type occupying the greatest percent of the stand location.

Ecosystem Health. The state of an ecosystem in which the structure and functions are sufficiently resilient, allowing the maintenance of biological diversity over time and through a range of disturbance.

Ecosystem Management. The use of an ecological approach to achieve productive resource management by blending social, physical, economic and biological needs and values to provide healthy ecosystems.

Ecotype. A population of a species in a given ecosystem that is adapted to a particular set of environmental conditions.

Ecozone. The transition zone between two biotic communities, such as between the Ponderosa pine forest type and the mixed conifer forest, which is found at higher elevations than the pine.

Edge. The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand, or a Douglas-fir stand next to an aspen stand.

Edge Contrasts. A qualitative measure of the difference in structure of two adjacent vegetated areas; for example, "low," "medium," or "high" edge contrast.

Edge Effect. The increased richness of plants and animals resulting from the mixing of two communities where they join.

Effects. Environmental consequences as a result of a proposed action. Included are direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, and indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but which are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Effects and impacts as used in this statement are synonymous. Effects include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic quality, historic, cultural, economic, social or health whether direct, indirect or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects; even if on balance the agency believes that the effects will be beneficial (40 CFR 1508.8).

Element (of ecosystem). An identifiable component, process, or condition of an ecosystem.

Embeddedness. A rating of the degree that larger substrate particles (boulder, rubble or gravel) are surrounded or covered by fine sediment.

Endangered Species. Any species of animal or plant that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Plant or animal species identified by the Secretary of the Interior and endangered in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species Act. The Act which requires consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if practices on National Forest System lands may impact a threatened or endangered species (plant or animal).

Endemic plant/organism. A plant or animal that occurs naturally in a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited geographically.

Environmental Analysis. An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable long and short-term environmental effects. Environmental Analyses include physical, biological, social and economic factors.

Environmental Assessment. A brief version of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A statement of the environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives to it. It is required for major Federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and released to the public and other agencies for comment and review. It is a formal document that must follow the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the project proposal.

Ephemeral Streams. Streams that flow only as the direct result of rainfall or snowmelt. They have no permanent flow.

Erosion. The wearing away of the land surface by wind or water.

Escape Cover. Vegetation of sufficient size and density to hide an animal, or an area used by animals to escape from predators.

Escaped Fire Situation Analysis. A decision-making process that evaluates alternative suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and economic criteria. Provides a record of decisions.

Ethnographic. Of or pertaining to social traditions of American Indian cultures.

Evaluation Criteria. Standards developed for appraising alternatives. (See decision criteria.)

Even-aged Management. Timber management actions that result in the creation of stands of trees in which the trees are essentially the same age. Clearcut, shelterwood, or seed tree cutting methods produce even-aged stands.

Exclusion Areas. Areas having a statutory prohibition to rights-of-way for lineal facilities or corridor designation.

Exterior Fire Protection. The protection of structures from the exterior, with no interior access or activity.

Eyrie. A ledge along a cliff used for nesting peregrine falcons.

Facilities. Transportation planning, road management and operation, fleet equipment, and engineering services (for example, administrative buildings, water and sanitation systems, sanitary landfills, dams, bridges and communication systems).

Fauna. The animal life of an area.

Felling. Cutting down trees.

Final Cut. The removal of the last seed bearers or shelter trees after regeneration of new trees has been established in a stand being managed under the shelterwood system of silviculture.

Fine Filter Management. Management that focuses on the welfare of a single or only a few species rather than the broader habitat or ecosystem. (See coarse filter management.)

Fire Adapted Ecosystem. An ecosystem with the ability to survive and regenerate in a fire-prone environment.

Fire Behavior. A manner in which fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

Fire Cycle. The average time between fires in a given area.

Fire Effects. The physical, biological and ecological impacts of fire on the environment.

Fire Management. All activities required for the protection of resources from fire and the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives.

Fire Management Plan. A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires and documents the Fire Management program in the approved land use plan. The plan is supplemented by operational plans, such as preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, prescribed fire plans, and prevention plans.

Fire Regime. The characteristics of fire in a given ecosystem, such as the frequency, predictability, intensity, and seasonality. Fire regimes can be lethal or non-lethal.

Fire Return Interval (Fire Frequency). How often a fire burns a given area (i.e., fire returns to a site every 20-40 years).

Fire Risks. The chance of fire starting as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents; a causative agent; a number related to the potential number of firebrands to which a given area will be exposed during the rating day (National Fire Danger Rating System).

Fire Severity. A qualitative measure used to describe the biological impacts of a fire. It reflects the mortality of flora and fauna and the loss of organic matter.

Fire Type.

Management Ignited. A fire deliberately started by man to achieve a desired management objective.

Prescribed Natural. A fire started by natural causes that is allowed to burn to accomplish certain, pre-set management objectives.

Wildland. A fire not under any management prescription, generally are suppressed immediately.

Fire Use. The combination of Wildland Fire Use opportunities and Prescribed Fire applications to meet natural resource objectives.

Fisheries Classification. Water bodies and streams classed as either having a cold water or warm water fishery. Designation is dependent upon the dominate species of fish occupying the water.

Fisheries Habitat. Streams, lakes, and reservoirs that support fish, or have the potential to support fish.

Flood Plain. A lowland adjoining a watercourse. At a minimum, the area is subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in a given year.

Flora. The plant life of an area.

Forage. All browse and non-woody plants that are eaten by wildlife or livestock.

Forb. A broadleaf plant that has little or no woody material in it.

Foreground. The part of a scene or landscape that is nearest to the viewer.

Forest Cover Type . (See cover type.)

Forest Health. A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity, soil, air, and water productivity, natural disturbances, and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustaining flow of goods and services for people.

Forest Land. See "Timber Classification."

Forest Land Type. A classification of an area based upon its capability of producing industrial wood (i.e., all commercial roundwood products except fuelwood), its legal status concerning timber utilization, and its proximity to urban and rural development.

Forest Roads and Trails. A legal term for Forest roads or trails that are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

Forest Supervisor. The official responsible for administering National Forest lands on an administrative unit, usually one or more National Forests. The Forest Supervisor reports to the Regional Forester.

Forage Utilization. The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Forage is all browse and herbage that is available and acceptable to grazing animals.

Forest Vegetation Simulation. A computer model for timber growth and yield. It projects per acre growth and volume yield for commercial timber stands. Formerly known as "Prognosis."

Fragmentation. The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat, typically forest cover, but including other types of habitat. Habitat can be fragmented naturally or from forest management activities, such as clearcut logging.

Frost Heave. A land surface that is pushed up by the accumulation of ice in the underlying soil.

Fuels. Plants and woody vegetation, both living and dead, that are capable of burning.

Fuel Arrangement. A general term referring to the spatial distribution and orientation of fuel particles within a natural setting.

Fuel Management. The treatment of fuels that would otherwise interfere with effective fire management or control. Fore instance, prescribed fire can reduce the amount of fuels that accumulate on the forest floor before the fuels become so heavy that a natural wildfire in the area would be explosive and impossible to control.

Fuel Model. Mathematical descriptions of fuel properties (e.g. fuel load and fuel depth) that are used as inputs to calculations of fire danger indices and fire behavior potential.

Fuel Reduction. Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

Fuel Treatment. Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g. lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, and burning).

Fuelwood. Wood cut into short lengths for burning.

Function. All the processes within an ecosystem through which the elements interact, such as succession, the food chain, fire, weather, and the hydrologic cycle.

Game Species. Any species of wildlife or fish that is harvested according to prescribed limits and seasons.

Geoclimatic Setting. The geology, climate (precipitation and temperature), vegetation, and geologic processes (such as landslides or debris flows) that are characteristic of a place; places with similar characteristics are said to have the same geoclimatic setting.

Geomorphic Processes. Processes that change the form of the earth, such as volcanic activity, running water, and glacial action.

Geomorphology. The science that deals with the relief features of the earth's surfaces.

GIS (geographic information systems). GIS is both a database designed to handle geographic data as well as a set of computer operations that can be used to analyze the data. In a sense, GIS can be thought of as a higher order map.

Goal. A concise statement that articulates a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and is timeless in that it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statement form the principal basis from which objectives are developed.

Goods and Services. The various outputs, including on-site users, produced from forest and rangeland resources.

Grazing Period. The period of time livestock use a specific pasture or unit within a grazing allotment.

Ground Cover. Material covering the land surface. It may include live vegetation, standing dead vegetation, litter, cobble, gravel, stones and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground would total 100 percent of the area evaluated.

Ground Fire. A fire that burns along the forest floor and does not affect trees with thick bark or high crowns.

Ground Water. The supply of fresh water under the earth's surface in an aquifer or in the soil.

Group Selection. A method of tree harvest in which trees are removed periodically in small groups. This silvicultural treatment results in small openings that form mosaics of age class groups in the forest.

Guidelines. An indication or outline (as by a government) of policy or conduct.

HRV. Historic Range of Variability, see Range of Variability.

Habitat. The area where a plant or animal lives and grows under natural conditions.

Habitat Capability. The ability of a land area or plant community to support a given species of wildlife.

Habitat Diversity. A number of different types of wildlife habitat within a given area.

Habitat Diversity Index. A measure of improvement in habitat diversity.

Habitat Type. A way to classify land area. A habitat can support certain climax vegetation, both trees and undergrowth species. Habitat typing can indicate the biological potential of a site.

Hard Snag. See Snag.

Hardened Campsite. A campsite where gravel or asphalt has been laid to protect the soil and contain use.

Harvest Cutting. The felling of the final crop of trees either in a single cutting or in a series of regeneration cuttings. Generally, the removal of financially or physically mature trees, in contrast to cuttings that remove immature trees. Also referred to as main felling and major harvest.

Hazard. A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that forms a special threat of ignition and resistance to control.

Hazardous Areas. Those wildland areas where the combination of vegetation, topography, weather, and the threat of fire to life and property create difficult and dangerous problems.

Hazardous Fuel (Fire). Excessive live or dead wildland fuel accumulations that increase the potential for uncharacteristically large wildland fire and decrease the capability to protect life, property, and natural and cultural resources.

Hazardous Substance. Usually a chemical or element that could affect the health of plants or animals if concentrations are too high. Usually regulated by laws and regulations of the Environmental Protection Agency or other regulatory agencies.

Healthy Ecosystem. An ecosystem in which structure and functions allow the maintenance of biological diversity, biotic integrity, and ecological processes over time.

Herbaceous Vegetation. Vegetation which dies back to ground level each year, generally grasses, forbs and grass-like.

Heritage Resources. The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by humans in the past: historical or archaeological.

Hiding Cover. The vegetation that will hide ninety percent of an elk from the view of a human at a distance of 200 feet or less. The distance which the animal is essentially hidden is called a sight distance.

Hierarchical. A type of classification technique whose successively lower level units must fit entirely within the separate units delineated by the next higher level in that system.

Highwall. A mining term referring to a steep wall or cliff of undisturbed material, usually rock, that is created by mining.

Horizontal Diversity. The distribution and abundance of plant and animal communities or different stages of plant succession across an area of land. The greater the numbers of communities in a given area, the higher the degree of horizontal diversity.

Human Dimension. An integral component of Ecosystem Management that recognizes people are part of ecosystems, that people's pursuits of past, present and future desires, needs and values (including perceptions, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors) have and will continue to influence ecosystems and that ecosystem management must include consideration of the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, social, cultural and economic well-being of people and communities.

Hydric Greenline (HGL). A belt of perennial riparian vegetation found closest to the water's edge. It is the area where recovery of riparian and aquatic ecosystems is first expressed and, therefore, can be monitored to test the impacts of livestock grazing. It is also the area which approximates the geographic elevation of the active floodplain, a feature otherwise difficult to locate.

Hydrologic Cycle. Also called the water cycle, this is the process of water evaporating, condensing, falling to the ground as precipitation, and returning to the ocean as run-off.

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC). A coding system developed by the U.S. Geological Service to map geographic boundaries of watersheds of various sizes.

Hydrologically Disturbed. Changes in natural canopy cover (vegetation removal) or a change in surface soil characteristics (such as compaction) that may alter natural streamflow quantities and character. Acres of vegetation within a watershed that are in a non-stocked, seedling, sapling, or first entry category; acres in roads; acres from other types of mechanical treatments and burned acres are included in the calculation of hydrologically disturbed area.

Hydrology. The science dealing with the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks and in the atmosphere.

Igneous Rock. Rocks formed when high temperature, molten mineral matter cooled and solidified.

Indicator Species. A plant or animal species related to a particular kind of environment. Its presence indicates that specific habitat conditions are also present.

Indigenous (species). Any species of wildlife native to a given land or water area by natural occurrence.

Individual (Single) Tree Selection. The removal of individual trees from certain size and age classes over an entire stand area. Regeneration is mainly natural, and an uneven-aged stand is maintained.

Induced Edge. An edge that results from the meeting of two successional stages of vegetative conditions within a plant community. These can be created by disturbance, i.e., grazing, timber harvest, fire, insect outbreaks.

Inherent Edge. An edge that results from the meeting of two plant community types. These often result from abrupt changes in soil type, topographic differences, geomorphic differences, and changes in microclimate.

Initial Attack. The wildfire control efforts taken by resources that are first to arrive at a wildfire.

Instream Flow. The quantity of water necessary to meet seasonal stream flow requirements to accomplish the purposes of the National Forests, including, but not limited to fisheries, visual quality, and recreational opportunities.

Integrated Pest Management. A process for selecting strategies to regulate forest pests in which all aspects of a pest-host system are studied and weighed. The information considered in selecting appropriate strategies includes the impact of the unregulated pest population on various resource values, alternative regulatory tactics and strategies, and benefit/cost estimates for these alternative strategies. Regulatory strategies are based on sound silvicultural practices and ecology of the pest-host system and consist of a combination of tactics such as timber stand improvement plus selective use of pesticides. A basic principle in the choice of strategy is that it be ecologically compatible or acceptable.

Interdisciplinary Team. A team of individuals with skills from different disciplines that focuses on the same task or project.

Intermediate Cut. The removal of trees from a stand sometime between the beginning or formation of the stand and the regeneration cut. Types of intermediate cuts include thinning, release, and improvement cuttings.

Intermittent Stream. A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from streams or from some surface source, such as melting snow.

Intermountain Region. The portion of the USDA Forest Service, also referred to as Region Four, that includes National Forests in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming.

Inventoried Roadless Area. (West of the 100th meridian) An area which meets the statutory definition of wilderness, does not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles, and meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. Contains 5,000 acres or more.
2. Contains less than 5,000 acres, but:
 - Due to physiography or vegetation, is manageable in a natural condition.
 - Is a self-contained ecosystem such as an island.
 - Is contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive area, Administration-endorsed wilderness, or roadless area in other Federal ownership, regardless of size.

Inventoried Roadless Area. (East of the 100th meridian) An area which contains no more than a half mile of improved road for each 1,000 acres, and the road is under Forest Service jurisdiction and:

- 1) The land is regaining a natural, untrammelled appearance.
- 2) Improvements existing in the area are being affected by the forces of nature rather than humans and are disappearing or muted.
- 3) The area has existing or attainable National Forest System ownership patterns, both surface and subsurface, that could ensure perpetuation of identified wilderness values.
- 4) The location of the area is conducive to the perpetuation of wilderness values, considering the relationship of the area to sources of noise, air and water pollution and other unsightly conditions that would have an effect on the wilderness experience.

Invasive Species. A plant species moving into areas outside of its former range.

Invertebrate. Small animals that lack a backbone or spinal column. Spiders, insects, and worms are examples of invertebrates.

Irretrievable. Applies to losses of production, harvest or commitment of renewable natural resources. For example, some or all of the timber production from an area is irretrievably lost during the time an area is used as a winter sports site. If the use is changed, timber production can be resumed. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

Irreversible. Applies primarily to the use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans, such as soil productivity. Irreversible also includes loss of future options.

Issue. A point, matter or question of public discussion or interest to be addressed or decided through the planning process.

Preliminary issue is an issue identified early in the scoping phase and is sometimes referred to as a tentative issue.

Significant issue is an issue within the scope of the proposed action which is used to formulate alternatives in an Environmental Analysis (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Key Area. A relatively small portion or a pasture or management unit selected because of its location, use or grazing value as a monitoring point for grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the pasture or unit as a whole.

Key Summer Range. The portion of a wildlife species' summer range that is essential for the animal's pre, post, and reproduction cycles. Deer require "fawning areas" where does give birth and hide their fawns for an essential period of time in the spring.

Key Winter Range. That portion of big game's range where the animals find food and cover during severe winter weather.

Kuchler Vegetation Types. Potential natural vegetation of the conterminous United States, classified by Kuchler.

Ladder Fuels. Vegetation located below the crown level of forest trees which can carry fire from the forest floor to tree crowns. Ladder fuels may be low-growing tree branches, shrubs, or smaller trees.

Land-Aquatic Type Associations. Code numbers given to a mapped unit of land in which land forms, soils, vegetation and water have the dominating influence.

Land Class. The topographic relief of a unit of land. Land classes are separated by slope. This coincides with the timber inventory process. The three land classes used in the Forest Plan are defined by the following slope ranges: 0 to 35%, 36-55%, and greater than 55%.

Land Use Class. The predominant purpose for which an area is used, i.e., agricultural land, forest land, rangeland, wetland, urban and suburban, roads, railroads or utility corridor.

Landform. Any physical feature of the earth's surface having a characteristic, recognizable shape and produced by natural causes. Landform is one criteria used in determining the capability and suitability of lands to produce resources and accommodate management activities.

Landing. Any place where cut timber is assembled for further transport from the timber sale area.

Landline. The boundary lines for National Forest land.

Landscape. A large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated due to factors such as geology, soils, climate, and human impacts. Landscapes are often used for coarse grain analysis.

Landscape Ecology. A study of the principles concerning structure, function and change of landscapes, and the use of these principles in the formulation and solving of problems; the body of knowledge pertaining to the structure, function and change of spatial patterns in ecosystems.

Land Use Planning. The process of organizing the use of lands and their resources to best meet people's needs over time, according to the land's capabilities.

Late Forest Succession. The stage of forest succession in which most of the trees are mature or overmature.

Legal Notice. A notice of a decision which can be appealed that is published in the Federal Register or in the legal notice section of a newspaper of general circulation.

Lek. An area used habitually by grouse species where the males display for the females each spring. Number of males are counted on the lek each spring to establish general population trends.

Lethal Fire. In forests, fires in which less than 20 percent of the basal area or less than 10 percent of the canopy cover remains; in rangelands, fires in which most of the shrub overstory or encroaching trees are killed.

Lichen. Any of the various flowerless plants composed of fungi and algae, commonly growing in flat patches on rocks, trees, etc.

Life Zone. Areas of "belts" of land that have distinct plant and animal characteristics determined by elevation, latitude, and climate. When ascending a high mountain, you will pass through these life zones.

Litter (forest litter). The freshly fallen or only slightly decomposed plant material on the forest floor. This layer includes foliage, bark fragments, twigs, flowers and fruit.

Leasable Minerals. Minerals, including phosphate, coal, oil and gas, that are administered under the 1920 Mineral Leasing Act. The Bureau of Land Management is the leasing agency; the Forest Service can provide input for leasing actions.

Locatable Minerals. These are generally precious metals, such as gold, silver, and copper, that are administered under the 1872 Mining laws.

Logging Residues. The residue left on the ground after timber cutting. It includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken branches, bark, and leaves. Certain amounts of "slash" provide important ecosystem roles, such as soil protection, nutrient cycling, and wildlife habitat.

Long-Term Sustained Yield Capacity. The highest uniform wood yield from lands being managed for timber production that may be sustained under a specified intensity of management consistent with multiple-use objectives.

M. Thousand. Five thousand board feet of timber can be expressed as 5M board feet.

MM. Million

Macro Climate. The general, large scale climate of a large area, as distinguished from the smaller scale micro climates within it.

Macroinvertebrate Biotic Condition Index. An index that compares the tolerance or sensitivity to pollution of an existing community of macroinvertebrates to the predicted potential tolerance of a community of undisturbed conditions for a given stream. Generally reflects the condition of the aquatic ecosystem.

Management Action. Any activity undertaken as part of the administration of the National Forest.

Management Concern. An issue, problem or a condition which constrains the range of management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process.

Management Direction. A statement of multiple-use and other goals and objectives, the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining them.

Management Intensity. A management practice or combination of management practices and associated costs designed to obtain different levels of goods and services.

Management Practice. A specific action, measure, course of action or treatment.

Management Prescription. Management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives.

Market Area. An area encompassing the National Forest and adjacent mills that purchase and/or manufacture timber products from that Forest.

Market-Value Outputs. Goods and services valued in terms of what people are willing to pay for them rather than go without, as evidenced by market transactions.

Mass Movement/Wasting. The down-slope movement of large masses of earth material by the force of gravity. Also called a landslide.

Mass Stability. The existing condition of the soil mantle related to the potential for land mass failure such as landslides, mud flows and debris slides.

Matrix. The least fragmented, most continuous pattern element of a landscape; the vegetation type that is most continuous over a landscape.

Mature Timber. Trees that have attained full development, especially height, and are in full seed production.

MBF. Thousand board feet (See board feet.)

Maximum Modification. See "Visual Quality Objectives."

Mean Annual Increment of Growth. The total increase in size or volume of individual trees. Or, it can refer to the increase in size and volume of a stand of trees at a particular age, divided by that age in years.

Mechanical Felling. Cutting trees using mechanical methods (i.e. chainsaws, shears etc.) and leaving them on the site.

Micro climate. The climate of a small site. It may differ from the climate at large of the area due to aspect, tree cover (or the absence of tree cover), or exposure to winds. Can create a micro-environment.

Microbiotic Crust. Thin crust of living organisms on or just below the soil, composed of lichens, mosses, algae, fungi, cyanobacteria, and bacteria.

Middleground. A term used in the management of visual resources, or scenery. It refers to the visible terrain beyond the foreground where individual trees are still visible but do not stand out distinctly from the stand.

Mineral Soil. Soil that consists mainly of inorganic material, such as weathered rock, rather than organic matter.

Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST). In wildland firefighting, a concept of employing the minimum amount of forces needed to effectively achieve fire management protection objectives consistent with land and resource management objectives. Can feature a range of suppression and support actions to minimize impacts to these values, and special rehabilitation measures.

MIS (management indicator species). A wildlife species whose population indicate the health of the ecosystem in which it lives and, consequently, the effects of forest management activities to that ecosystem. MIS are selected by land management agencies. (See indicator species.)

Mission (of the USDA Forest Service). "To care for the land and serve people. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

Mitigate/mitigation. To lessen the severity. Actions taken to avoid, minimize or rectify the impact of a land management practice.

Mixed Stand. A stand consisting of two or more tree species.

MMBF. Million board feet (See board feet.)

Modification. A visual quality objective; management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape, but they must borrow from naturally established form, line, color or texture so that the activity blends with the surrounding area.

Monitoring. The determination of how well project or plan objectives have been met and how closely management practices should be adjusted. (See adaptive management.)

Mortality. Trees that were merchantable and have died within a specified period of time. The term mortality can also refer to the rate of death of a species in a given population or community.

Mosaic of Forest and Openings. Areas with a variety of plant communities over a landscape, such as areas with trees and areas without trees occurring over a landscape.

Mountain Brush. Vegetation characterized by woody species usually found between sagebrush/grasslands and coniferous forests at upper elevations. Prominent species include mountain mahogany, mountain maple, chokecherry, serviceberry, etc.

Mountain Pine Beetle. A tiny black insect, ranging from 1/8 to 3/4 inch in size, that bores through a pine tree's bark. It stops the tree's intake and transport of the food and nutrients it must have to stay alive, thus killing the tree.

Multiple-Use. The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System lands for a variety of purposes such as recreation, range, timber, wildlife and fish habitat, and watershed.

Municipal Watershed. A watershed that serves a public water system as defined in Public Law 93-523 (Safe Drinking Water Act); or as defined in State safe drinking water regulations. The definition does not include communities served by a well or confined ground water unaffected by Forest Service activities.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA). These are rules that require an integration of planning for National Forests and Grasslands, including the planning for timber, range, fish and wildlife, water, wilderness, recreation resources, together with resource protection activities, such as fire management, and the use of other resources, such as minerals.

National Forest System (NFS) Land. Federal lands that have been designated by Executive Order or statute as National Forests, National Grasslands, Purchase Units, and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service, including Experimental Areas and Bankhead-Jones Title III lands.

Native Species. A species of flora or fauna occurring naturally in the United States and that not introduced by humans.

Natural Barrier. A natural feature, such as a dense stand of trees or downfall, that will restrict animal travel.

Natural Catastrophic Condition. A significant change in forest conditions on the area that affects Forest Plan resource management objectives and their projected and scheduled outputs, uses, costs, and impacts on local communities and environmental quality.

Natural Disturbance. See Disturbance.

Natural Range of Variability. See Range of variability.

Natural Resource. A feature of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs.

Nest Survey. A way to estimate the size of a bird population by counting the number of nests in a given area.

Net Public Benefits. An expression used to signify the overall long-term value to the Nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not. Net public benefits are measured by both quantitative and qualitative criteria rather than a single measure or index. The maximization of net public benefits to be derived from management of units of the National Forest System is consistent with the principle of multiple-use and sustained-yield.

NFRS. National Forest recreation sites that have been inventoried.

No Action Alternative. The most likely condition expected to exist in the future if management practices continue unchanged.

Noncommercial Vegetative Treatment. The removal of trees for reasons other than timber production.

Nonconsumptive Use. The use of a resource that does not reduce its supply; for example, nonconsumptive uses of water include hydroelectric power generation, boating, swimming and fishing.

Nondeclining Flow. The principle expressed by the definition of the base sale schedule.

Nonforest Land. See "Timber Classification."

Nongame. Species of animals not managed for sport hunting.

Noninterchangeable Component (NIC). A portion of the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) which cannot be substituted for from other areas or species types. Volume programmed from a NIC will not be replaced by volume from other NICs. The volume in the NICs are mutually exclusive.

Nonmarket-Valued Outputs. Goods and services not generally traded in the marketplace, but valued in terms of what reasonable people would be willing to pay for them rather than go without. Those obtaining the actual outputs do not necessarily pay what they would be willing to pay for them.

Nonnative Species. A species introduced into an ecosystem through human activities.

Nonpoint Source Pollution. Pollution whose source is not specific in location. The sources of discharge are dispersed, not well-defined, or constant. Rain storms and snow melt often make this type of pollution worse. Examples include sediments from logging activities, and runoff from agricultural chemicals.

Non-renewable Resource. A resource whose total quantity does not increase measurably over time, so that each use of the resource diminishes the supply.

Notice of Intent. A notice printed in the Federal Register announcing that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

Noxious Weeds. A plant recognized by law as being especially undesirable, troublesome, and difficult to control.

Nutrient Cycle. The circulation of chemical elements and compounds, such as carbon and nitrogen, in specific pathways from the non-living parts of ecosystems into the organic substances of the living parts of ecosystems, and then back again to the non-living parts of the ecosystem. For example, nitrogen in wood is returned to the soil as the dead tree decays; the nitrogen again becomes available to living organisms in the soil, and upon their death, the nitrogen is available to plants growing in that soil.

Objective. A clear and quantifiable statement of planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Something aimed at or striven for within a predetermined time period. An objective must be achievable, be measurable, have a stated time period for completion, be quantifiable, be clear and its results must be described.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's). Vehicles such as motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles.

Old Growth. Old forests often contain several canopy layers, variety in tree sizes and species, decadent old trees, and standing dead woody material.

Open Motorized Route Density (OMRD). Includes all open roads and open motorized trails. Density may be displayed in miles per square mile for a specified analysis area.

Opportunities. Ways to address or resolve public issues or management concerns in the land and resource management planning process.

Optimum. A level of production that is consistent with other resource requirements as constrained by environmental, social, and economically sound conditions.

Organic Soil. Soil at least partly derived from living matter, such as decayed plant material.

Output. One of the ways functions are described; resources which leave a system, i.e., animals migrating out of an area, mass erosion, removal of commercial timber from an area.

Overburden. The rock and/or soil that covers an ore body, or material that is extracted during mining that does not have high enough values to be considered ore.

Overmature Timber. Tress that have attained full development, particularly in height, and are declining in vigor, health, and soundness.

Overstory. The upper canopy layer; the plants below comprise the understory.

Paleontological Resource. Any remains, trace or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved in the Earth's crust since some past geologic time.

Parent Material. The mineral or organic matter from which the upper layers of soil are formed.

Park-like Structure. Stands with large scattered trees and open growing conditions, usually maintained by ground fires.

Partial Retention. A visual quality objective which, in general, means human activities may be evident, but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Particulates. Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.

Patch. An area of homogenous vegetation, in structure and composition.

Patch Cut. A clearcut that creates small openings in a stand of trees, usually between 15 and 40 acres in size. Patch cuts are used to provide the disturbance needed to regenerate aspen.

Percolation. Downward flow or infiltration of water through the pores or spaces of rock or soil.

Perennial Stream. A stream that flows throughout the year and from source to mouth.

Perlite. A volcanic glass containing water that expands or “pops” when heated to form a lightweight aggregate.

Permitted Grazing. Grazing on a National Forest range allotment under the terms of a grazing permit.

Permittee. A person or persons who utilize the National Forest System lands under a permit, usually a Special Use Permit or livestock grazing permit.

Personal Use. Normally used to describe the type of permit issued for removal of wood products (firewood, posts, poles, and Christmas trees) from National Forest land when the product is for home use and not to be resold for profit.

Persons -At-One-Time (PAOT). A recreation capacity measurement term indicating the number of people who can use a facility or area at one time.

Planning Area. The area covered by a Regional Guide or Forest Plan.

Planning Corridor. A general broad linear area of land used to evaluate where a specific right-of-way could be placed.

Planning Period. The 50-year time frame for which goods, services, and effects were projected in the development of the Forest Plan.

Planning Regulations. The rules which guide land and resource management planning (Forest Plans) on the National Forests.

Plant Association. A potential natural plant community of definite floristic composition and uniform appearance.

Plant Community. A group of one or more populations of plants in a common spatial arrangement.

Plant Species. The major subdivision of a genus or subgenus of a plant being described or measured.

PNV. See present net value.

Pole/sapling. The stage of forest succession in which trees are between 3 and 7 inches in diameter and are the dominant vegetation.

Pole timber. Live trees at least five inches in diameter at breast height but smaller than the minimum size for sawtimber.

Policy. A guiding principle that is based on a specific decision or set of decisions.

Pool. A portion of the stream with reduced current velocity, often with water deeper than the surrounding areas, which is frequently used by fish for resting and cover.

Pool-Riffle Ratio. The ratio of the length or percent of pool habitat divided by the length or percent of riffle habitat.

Potential Natural Community. The biotic community that would be established if all successional sequences of its ecosystem were completed without additional human-made disturbance under present environmental conditions. Grazing by native fauna, natural disturbances, such as drought, floods, wildfire, insects and disease are inherent in the development of potential natural communities which may include naturalized non native species. The potential natural community and its environmental characteristics provide a reference standard to which existing seral communities can be related.

Potential Natural Vegetation. The vegetation that would exist today if man were removed from the scene and if the plant succession after his removal were telescoped into a single moment. The time compression eliminates the effects of future climatic fluctuations, while the effects of man's earlier activities are permitted to stand.

Practice (Also Management Practice). A specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment.

Precommercial Thinning. The practice of removing some of the trees less than merchantable size from a stand so that the remaining trees will grow faster.

Predator. An animal at or near the top of food chains that lives by preying on other animals.

Pre-existing Use. Land use that may not conform to a zoning ordinance but existed prior to the enactment of the ordinance.

Preparatory Cut. The removal of trees near the end of a rotation, which permanently opens the canopy and enables the crowns of seed bearers to enlarge, to improve conditions for seed production and natural regeneration typically done in the shelterwood system.

Prescribed Fire. Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, line officer approved prescribed burn plan must exist, and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements must be satisfied prior to prescribed fire ignition.

Prescribed Natural Fire. Naturally ignited fire that burns under specified conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and produce fire behavior and fire characteristics to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

Prescription. Management practices selected to accomplish specific land and resource management objectives.

Present Net Value. Also called present net worth. The measure of the economic value of a project when costs and revenues occur in different time periods. Future revenues and costs are "discounted" to the present by an interest rate that reflects the changing value of a dollar over time. The assumption is that dollars today are more valuable dollars in the future. PNV is used to compare project alternatives that have different cost and revenue flows.

Preservation. See "Visual Quality Objectives."

Presuppression. Activities in advance of fire occurrence to assure effective suppression action.

Primary Base Series. A topographic map series that includes culture, drainage, land net ownership, and contours and is prepared on a stable base film. The map series is used to produce Forest Service cartographic products used in managing National Forest System lands. Similar maps are available for other lands.

Primitive ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum). A classification of wilderness and recreation opportunity. It is characterized by an essentially unmodified environment, where trails may be present but structures are rare, and where it is highly probable to be isolated from the sights and sounds of people. (See ROS.)

Production. One of the ways functions are described; resource which are "manufactured" within the system (i.e., plant growth, animal reproduction, snags falling and becoming down woody material).

Production, Forage. Annual production of herbage, shrubs, woody vines, and trees which may provide food for grazing animals or harvested for feeding. Forage production is expressed in pounds per acre per year and is used to determine available food supply for grazing animals.

Productivity. The ability of an area to provide goods and services and to sustain ecological values; the growth rate of biomass per unit area, usually expressed in terms of weight or energy.

Production Potential. The capability of land or water to produce a given resource.

Program. When capitalized, the Renewable Resource Program required by the RPA. Generally, sets of activities or projects with specific objectives, defined in terms of specific results and responsibility for accomplishment.

Programmatic Direction. Sideboards for management which are usually general in nature and designed to be applied over a large area. In the Forest Service, generally referring to Forest Plan direction.

Properly Functioning Condition (PFC). The condition of a resource or ecosystem at any temporal or spatial scale when they are dynamic and resilient to disturbances to structure, composition and processes of their biological or physical components.

Proposal. Exists at the stage in the development of an action when an agency is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing a goal and the effects can be meaningfully evaluated.

Proposed Action. A proposal by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend or implement an action.

Protocol. A specific way of conducting monitoring or analysis.

Public Access. An indication if the property is posted or restricted from public use.

Public Domain. The territory ceded to the Federal government by the original thirteen states, plus additions by treaty, cession, and purchase.

Public Issue . A subject or questions of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System.

Public Land. Land for which title and control rests with a government - federal, state, regional, county or municipal.

Public Participation. Meeting, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, responses to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the public about Forest Service planning and decision making.

Pumice. A light-colored, lightweight volcanic rock consisting mostly of volcanic glass.

Purpose and Need. A statement which briefly specifies the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action.

Quadratic Mean Diameter (QMD). Indicates the diameter of the cross-section of average area. This number is used for determining basal area and volume.

Range (Rangeland). Land on which the principle natural plant cover is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs that area available as forage for big game and livestock.

Range Allotment. An area designated for the use of a prescribed number and kind of livestock under one management plan.

Range Development. An activity or structure used to improve livestock distribution, rangeland conditions, or otherwise improve range management. Can be structural (fence, water development, etc.) or nonstructural (seeding, vegetation manipulation, etc.).

Range Management. The art and science of planning and directing range use intended to yield the sustained maximum animal production and perpetuation of the natural resources.

Range of Variability. (Natural Variability, Historical Variability.) The components of healthy ecosystems fluctuate over time. The range of sustainable conditions in an ecosystem is determined by time, processes such as fire, native species, and the land itself. For instance, ecosystems that have a 10-year fire cycle have a narrower range of variation than ecosystems with 200-300 year fire cycles. Past management has placed some ecosystems outside their range of variability. Future management should move such ecosystems back toward their natural, sustainable range of variation.

Ranger District. The administrative sub-unit of a National Forest that is supervised by a District Ranger who reports directly to the Forest Supervisor.

Raptor. A bird of prey, such as an eagle or hawk.

RARE II. *Roadless Area Review and Evaluation.* The national inventory of roadless and undeveloped areas within the National Forests and Grasslands.

Real Dollar Value. A monetary value that compensates for the effects of inflation.

Recharge. The addition of water to ground water by natural or artificial processes.

Reclamation. The process of restoring disturbed areas, usually consisting of reshaping, replacing topsoil, and seeding the area.

Recreation Capacity. The number of people that can take advantage of any supply of recreation opportunity at any one time without substantially diminishing the quality of the experience.

Recreation Opportunity Class. An assessment of the general potential of the site for outdoor recreation. The following minimum number of classes are recognized:

Primitive - Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment with a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Semi-primitive - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment with a moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man. Semi-primitive can be motorized or non-motorized.

Roaded Natural - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment with a low probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Rural - Area is characterized by a substantially modified natural environment with a low probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Urban - Area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural-appearing elements, i.e. ski resorts.

Recreation Types:

Developed Recreation. The type of recreation that occurs where modifications (improvements) enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area.

Dispersed Recreation. That type of recreation use that requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves activities related to roads and trails. The activities do not necessarily take place on or adjacent to a road or trail, only in conjunction with it. Activities tend to be day-use oriented and include hunting, fishing, berry picking, off-road vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, camping, viewing scenery, snowmobiling, and many others.

Recreation Visitor Day (RVD). Twelve visitor hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

Reforestation. The natural or artificial restocking of an area with forest trees.

Regeneration. The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. Also, the young crop itself, which commonly is referred to as reproduction.

Regionalization. A mapping procedure in which a set of criteria are used to subdivide the earth's surface into smaller, more homogeneous units that display spatial patterns related to ecosystem structure, composition, and function.

Regional Analysis Areas. Geographic areas within the Region that encompass several Forest or Grasslands.

Regional Forester. The official of the USDA Forest Service responsible for administering an entire region of the Forest Service.

Regulations. Generally refers to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter II, which covers management of the Forest Service.

Release Cutting. Removal of competing vegetation to allow desired tree species to grow.

Removal Cut. The removal of the last seed bearers or shelter trees after regeneration is established.

Rendezvous Site. In wolf management, an area where wolves gather.

Research Natural Area (RNA). Designated areas of land, usually more than 300 acres in size having characteristics concerning ecological processes that are of scientific or educational interest. These areas are valuable for conducting observation and research activities on plant and animal succession, habitat requirements of species, insect and fungus depredations, soil microbiology, phenology, and other related subjects.

Residual Stand. The trees remaining standing after some event such as selection cutting.

Residue Utilization. Removal and use of forest residue (such as slash, litter, brush, dead trees, and snags) for energy production, home heating or wood products.

Resilience. The ability of an ecosystem to return to or maintain diversity, integrity and ecological processes following disturbance.

Responsible Official. The Forest Service employee who has been delegated the authority to carry out a specific planning action.

Restoration. Actions taken to modify an ecosystem in whole or in part to achieve a desired condition.

Retention. A visual quality objective; management activities that are not visually evident; activities repeat form, line, color, and texture characteristics found in the landscape.

Revegetation. The re-establishment and development of a plant cover by either natural or artificial means, such as re-seeding.

Riffle. A shallow rapids where the water flows swiftly over completely or partially submerged obstructions to produce surface agitation, but standing waves are absent.

Right-of-Way. An accurately located strip of land with defined width, point of beginning, and point of ending. It is the area within which the user has authority to conduct operations approved or granted by the landowner in an authorizing document, such as a permit, easement, lease, license, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Riparian Area. They are along a watercourse or around a lake or pond.

Riparian Ecosystem. The ecosystems around or next to water areas that support unique vegetation and animal communities as a result of the influence of water.

Risk (Fire). The probability that potential harm or undesirable consequences will be realized.

Risk to Communities (Fire). The risk associated with adverse impacts to communities resulting from unwanted wildland fire.

Risk to Environment (Fire): The risk associated with losing key ecosystem components resulting from unwanted wildland fire.

Road Density. The miles of road per square mile.

Road System. An alpha code indicating primary systems designation where primary indicates the system under which principle funding and management criteria for operation and maintenance of a road is derived.

ROD. Record of Decision. An official document in which a deciding official states the alternative that will be implemented from a prepared EIS.

ROS. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. The land classification system that categorizes land by its setting and the probable recreation experiences and activities it affords. (See Recreation Opportunity Class.)

Rotation. The number of years required to establish and grow timber to a specified condition of maturity.

Roundwood. Timber and fuelwood prepared in the round state, such as house logs and telephone poles.

RPA. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. Also refers to the National Assessment and Recommended Program developed to fulfill the requirements of this Act.

R.S. 2477. Revised Statute 2477; legislation that allows counties to assert that they have access rights on roads and/or trails that existed prior to the establishment of the Forest.

Run-off. The portion of precipitation that flows over the land surface or in open channels.

Sacrifice Area/Site. In range management, a site allowed to be overgrazed to obtain efficient overall use of the management area. In cultural resource management, it may refer to a site intentionally sacrificed to extensive public use in order to preserve the larger cultural area.

Sale Schedule. The quantity of timber planned for sale by time period from an area of suitable land covered by a Forest Plan. The first period, usually a decade, of the selected sale schedule provides the allowable sale quantity. Future periods are shown to establish that long-term sustained yield will be achieved and maintained.

Saleable Minerals. These minerals, including sand, gravel and stone, are administered under the 1947 Mineral Materials Act. The Forest Service has the discretion to dispose (sell) of these materials.

Salvage Harvest. Harvest of trees that are dead, dying, or deteriorating because they are overmature or have been materially damaged by fire, wind, insects, fungi, or other injurious agents before the wood becomes unmerchantable.

Sanitation Harvest. The harvest of dead, damaged or susceptible trees done primarily to prevent the spread of pests or disease and to promote forest health.

Sapling. A loose term for a young tree more than a few feet tall and an inch or so in diameter that is typically growing vigorously.

Sawtimber. Trees that are 9 inches in diameter at breast height or larger and can be made into lumber.

Scale. In ecosystem management, scale refers to the degree of resolution at which ecosystems are observed and measured.

Scoping. The on-going process to determine public opinion, receive comments and suggestions, and determine issues during the environmental analysis process. It may involve public meetings, telephone conversations or letters.

Second Growth. Forest growth that was established after some kind of interference with the previous forest crop, such as cutting, fire, or insect attack.

Security Area. Security areas are non-linear blocks over ½ mile from an open route and at least 250 acres in size. Cover may be provided by vegetation or topography.

Sediment. Solid material, both mineral and organic, transported from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Seedlings and Saplings. Live trees less than 5 inches in diameter at breast height.

Seed Tree Harvest. Removal of the mature timber crop from an area in one cut, except for a small number of seed bearers.

Selection. See "Group Selection" and "Individual (Single) Tree Selection."

Sensitive Species. Plant or animal species which are susceptible to habitat changes or impacts from activities. The official designation is made by the USDA Forest Service at the Region level and is not part of the designation of Threatened or Endangered Species made by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sensitivity Level. A particular degree of measure of viewer interest in scenic qualities of the landscape. Three sensitivity levels are employed, each identifying a different level of user concern for the visual environment:

- Level 1 - Highest Sensitivity
- Level 2 - Average Sensitivity
- Level 3 - Lowest Sensitivity

Seral. The stage of succession of a plant or animal community that is transitional. If left alone, the seral stage will give way to another plant or animal community that represents a further stage of succession, generally expressed as late, mid, or early.

Shade-Intolerant Plants. Plant species that do not germinate or grow well in shade.

Shade-Tolerant Plants. Plants that grow well in shade.

Shelterwood. A cutting method used in a more or less mature stand, designed to establish a new crop under the protection of the old.

Sight Distance. The distance at which 90 percent or more of a deer or elk is hidden from an observer. Hiding cover exists when 90 percent or more of a standing deer or elk is hidden at a distance of 200 feet or less.

Significance. As used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity.

Silvicultural System. The cultivation of forests; the result is a forest of a distinct form. Silvicultural systems are classified according to harvest and regeneration methods and the type of forest that results.

Silviculture. The art and science that promotes the growth of single trees and the forest as a biological unit.

Similar Actions. Actions, which when viewed with other reasonable foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as timing or geography.

Single-Tree Selection. See "Individual (Single) Tree Selection."

Sinuosity. The ratio of a stream's channel length to valley length.

Site Preparation. The general term for removing unwanted vegetation, slash, roots, and stones from a site before reforestation. Naturally occurring wildfire, as well as prescribed fire can prepare a site for natural regeneration.

Size Class. One of the three intervals of tree stem diameters used to classify timber in the Forest Plan data base. The size classes are: Seedling/Sapling (less than 5 inches in diameter); Pole Timber (5 to 7 inches in diameter); Sawtimber (greater than 7 inches in diameter).

Skidding. Hauling logs by sliding, not on wheels, from stump to a collection point.

Skid Trail. Narrow path on which logging equipment travels when moving logs from the forest to a designated landing location.

Skier days. Twelve skier hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

Skyline logging. A logging system used to remove timber from steep slopes. Logs are brought up-slope on a suspended cable, or skyline. Since the weight of the log is completely or partially supported by the cable, there is little disturbance to soil or other vegetation.

Slash. The residue left on the ground after timber cutting and/or accumulating there as a result of storm, fire, or other damage. It includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken or uprooted stems, branches, twigs, leaves, bark and chips.

Slump. A landslide where the underlying rock masses tilt back as they slide from a cliff or escarpment.

Small Game. Birds and small mammals typically hunted or trapped.

Smoke Management. Application of fire intensities and meteorological processes to minimize degradation of air quality during prescribed fires.

Snag. A standing dead tree important as habitat for a variety of wildlife species and their prey.

Soil Compaction. A physical change in soil properties that results in a decrease in porosity and increase in soil bulk density and soil strength.

Soil Cover. The type of cover on the soil surface, i.e. live vegetation, litter, rock, pavement, exposed.

Soil Displacement. The movement of the forest floor (litter, duff, and humus layers) and surface soil from one place to another by mechanical forests such as a blade used in piling or windrowing. Mining of surface soil layers by discing, chopping, or bedding operation are not considered displacement.

Soil Drainage Class. Natural soil drainage refers to the rapidity and extent of the removal of water from the soil, in relation to incoming water. This is especially true of water by surface runoff and by flow through the soil to underground spaces. Soil drainage, as a condition of the soil, refers to the frequency and duration of periods when soil is free of saturation or partial saturation.

Soil Erosion Type. A classification system that further defines erosion by running water, wind or gravitational creep that is used to determine watershed condition.

Soil Quality. Long term soil productivity and soil hydrologic function.

Soil Map Unit. A named portion of a landscape shown by a closed delineation and symbol on a soil map. Generally used to assess or monitor watershed condition, site productivity, and site capability.

Soil Puddling. A physical change in soil properties due to shearing forces that alters soil structure and porosity. Puddling occurs when the soil is at or near liquid limit.

Soil, Severely Burned. A condition where most woody debris and the entire Forest floor is consumed down to bare mineral soil. Soil may have turned red due to extreme heat. Also, fine roots and organic matter are charred in the upper one-half inch of mineral soil.

Soil Structure. Structure is described by grade, class and type. Terms are used to describe the natural aggregates in the soil called peds in contrast to clods caused by disturbance, fragments by rupture of peds, and concentrations by local concentrations of compounds that irreversibly cement the soil grains together. The six structures, each with its own distinctive shape and arrangement, are: granular, platy, prismatic, columnar, angular blocky, subangular blocky, and structureless.

Soil Texture. Texture refers to the relative proportions of clay, silt and sand (less than 2mm in diameter). Clay particles are the smallest, silt particles are intermediate and sand particles are the largest. Loams contain various mixtures of the three basic particle sizes.

Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs). See BMP.

Soil Compaction. The reduction of soil volume. For instance, the weight of heavy equipment on soils can compact the soil and thereby change it in some ways, such as its ability to absorb water.

Soil Productivity. The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop. Productivity depends on adequate moisture and soil nutrients, as well as favorable climate.

Sound Wood. Timber that is in solid, whole, good condition. Sound wood is free from damage, decay, or defects.

Special Forest Products. Nontimber renewable plant products such as mushrooms, berries, flowers, etc.

Special Use Permit. A permit issued to an individual or group by the USDA Forest Service for use of National Forest land for a special purpose. Examples might be a Boy Scout Jamboree or a mountain bike race.

Species at Risk. Species which demonstrate a potential for loss of resilience or sustainability if disturbed.

Stand (Tree Stand). A group of trees that occupies a specific area and is similar in species, age, and condition.

Stand Density Index (SDI). The index number is the number of trees per acre at an average stand diameter of 10 inches. This index changes for different species, since some trees are more shade tolerant than others. For example, the maximum trees per acre for an Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir stand is 670, while the maximum trees per acre in a Douglas-fir stand is 200-250.

Standards and Guidelines. Requirements found in a Forest Plan which impose limits on natural resource management activities, generally for environmental protection.

State Air Quality Regulations. The legal base for control of air pollution sources in that State. Prescribed burning is generally covered under these regulations.

State Implementation Plan. A State plan that covers implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of primary and secondary standards in each air quality control Region, pursuant to section 110 of the Clean Air Act.

Stewardship. Caring for land and associated resources and passing healthy ecosystems to future generations.

Stocking level. The number of trees in an area as compared to the desirable number of trees for best results, such as maximum wood production.

Storage. One of the ways functions are described; resources which are conserved within the system (i.e., sediments and water retained in wetlands, carbon and other nutrient storage in down woody material).

Stream Channel. The defined bed and bank of a watercourse down which water travels.

Stream Order. A numbering scheme used to characterize the relative position of stream channels within a drainage. First-order streams are those which have no tributaries. Second-order streams are those which have as tributaries only first-order channels. Third-order streams are formed when two second-order channels come together. Stream order is used to analyze hydrologic response and fisheries.

Stream Type. Alpha-numeric identification given to reoccurring stream channel types based on measurable morphological features such as channel gradient, width/depth ratio, dominant particle size of bed and bank materials, entrenchment of channel and confinement of channel in valley, and landform features, soil erodibility, and stability.

Stream Width. The width of streams or rivers. Generally used to determine stream type, flood hazard, instream flows, and riparian management.

Streamflow. A measure of the volume of water passing a given point in a stream channel at a given point in time.

Stringer. A strip of vegetation different from surrounding vegetation, such as a stringer of aspen in an area of spruce.

Structure. How the parts of ecosystems are arranged, both horizontally and vertically. These parts include vegetation patches, edge, fragmentation, canopy layers, snags, down wood, steep canyons, rocks in streams, and roads. For example, structure might reveal a pattern, mosaic or total randomness of vegetation.

Subnival. A mountainous environment below the snow zone in which frost action is an important ecological process.

Subwatershed. A drainage delineated for one of the streams within a National Forest System (NFS) watershed, often to analyze the effects of a proposed action. The subwatershed chosen for analysis may depend on the size and anticipated effects of a proposal.

Succession. The natural replacement, in time, of one plant community with another. Conditions of the prior plant community (or successional stage) create conditions that are favorable for the establishment of the next stage.

Successional Stage. A stage of development of a plant community as it moves from bare ground to climax. The grass-forb stage of succession precedes the woody shrub stage and so on.

Suitability. The appropriateness of certain resource management practices to an area of land. Suitability can be determined by environmental and economic analysis of management practices.

Suitability for Timber Production. Timber harvest, other than salvage sales or sales to protect other multiple-use values, cannot occur on lands not suited for timber production.

Suppression. The action of extinguishing or confining a fire.

Surface Fire. Fire that burns loose debris of the surface, which includes dead branches, leaves and low vegetation.

Surface Resources. Renewable resources that are on the surface of the earth, such as timber and forage, in contrast to ground water and minerals which are located beneath the surface.

Suspended Sediment. Sediment which remains in suspension in the water for a considerable period of time without contact with the bottom of the water source and is generally recorded in parts per million or milligrams per liter.

Sustainability. The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Sustainable. The yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable.

Sustained-Yield. The yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously at a given intensity of management.

Tall Forb Community. A vegetation community made up of tall broad-leaved plants, rated as “at risk” in the Intermountain Region due to conifer encroachment and historic overgrazing. Common plants include anise, mountain bluebell, and coneflower.

Target. A National Forest's annual goal for accomplishment for natural resource programs. Targets represent the commitment of the Forest Service has with Congress to accomplish the work Congress has funded, and are often used as a measure of the agency's performance.

Terrestrial. Pertaining to the land.

Thermal Cover. Cover used by animals to ameliorate effects of weather; for elk, a stand of coniferous trees 40 feet or more tall with an average crown closure of 70 percent or more.

Thinning. A cutting method used in an immature stand of trees to accelerate growth or improve the form of the remaining trees without permanently breaking the canopy.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat. Those areas currently or potentially occupied or utilized by threatened and endangered species. T&E Species habitat generally falls into one of several categories: critical habitat, proposed critical habitat, occupied habitat, or potential habitat.

Threatened Species. Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future as designated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Timber Classification. The classification of forested lands into land management alternatives according to how the land relates to management of the timber resource there.

Nonforest Land -- Lands never having or incapable of having greater than 10 percent of the area occupied by forest trees and lands formerly forested and currently developed for nonforest use.

Forest Land -- Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use. Lands developed for nonforest use include areas for crops, improved pasture, residential, or administrative areas, improved roads of any width and adjoining road clearing and power line clearing of any width. The term occupancy when used to define forestland will be measured by canopy cover of live forest trees at maturity. The minimum area for classification of forestland is 1 acre. Unimproved roads, trails, streams and clearings in forest areas are classified as forest if they are less than 120 feet in width.

Suitable Forest Land -- Land that is managed for timber production on a regulated basis.

Unsuitable Forest Land (Not Suited) -- Forest land that is not managed for timber production because: (1) the land has been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary or the Chief; (2) technology is not available to prevent irreversible damage to soils, productivity or watershed conditions; (3) there is not reasonable assurance that lands can adequately be restocked within 5 years after final harvest based on existing technology and knowledge; (4) there is at present, a lack of adequate information to responses to timber management activities; or (5) timber management is inconsistent with or not cost-effective in meeting management requirements and multiple-use objectives specified in the Forest Plan.

Tentatively Suitable (Commercial Forest Land) -- Forest Land which is producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood and (1) has not been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary or the Chief; (2) existing technology and knowledge is available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soils, productivity, or watershed conditions; and (3) existing technology and knowledge provides reasonable assurance that adequate restocking can be attained within 5 years after final harvesting.

Timber Harvest Schedule. See "Sale Schedule."

Timber Treatment Opportunity Class. A class to identify the physical opportunity for increasing timber production. Classes are:

No treatment required - Stand is characterized by an adequate stock of growing stock trees in reasonably good condition.

Regeneration without site preparation - Area is characterized by the absence of a manageable stand because of inadequate stocking of growing stock. Growth will be consistently below potential for the site if the area is left alone. Prospects are not good for natural regeneration. Artificial regeneration will require little or no site preparation.

Regeneration with site preparation - Area is characterized by the absence of a manageable stand because of inadequate stocking of growing stock. Growth will be considerably below potential for the site if the area is left alone. Either natural or artificial regeneration will require site preparation. Such preparation may include clear felling existing stand.

Stand conversion - The area is characterized by stands of undesirable, chronically diseased, or off-site species. Growth and quality will be considerably below potential for the site if the area is left alone. The best prospect is for conversion to a different forest type or species.

Thinning seedlings and saplings - The stand is characterized by a dense stocking of growing stock. Stagnation appears likely if left alone. Stocking must be reduced to help crop trees attain dominance.

Thinning poletimber - The stand is characterized by a dense stocking of growing stock. Stocking must be reduced to prevent stagnation or to confine growth to fewer, high quality crop trees.

Other Stocking Control (Clean and Release, Cull Tree Removal) - Stand is characterized by an adequate stocking of seedlings, sapling, and/or poletimber growing stock mixed with competing vegetation either overtopping or otherwise inhibiting the development of crop trees. The undesirable material must be removed to release overtopped trees, prevent stagnation, or improve the composition, form or growth of the residual stand.

Other Intermediate Treatments - The stand would benefit from other special treatments such as pruning to improve the quality of individual crop trees.

Clearcut Harvest - The area is characterized by a mature to overmature stand of sufficient volume to justify a commercial harvest. The best prospect is to harvest the stand and regenerate.

Partial Cut Harvest - The stand is characterized by poletimber or sawtimber sized trees with sufficient merchantable volume for a commercial harvest which will achieve intermediate stand treatment needs to prepare stand for natural regeneration. The stand is of a favored species composition and may be even or uneven aged. Included in such treatments as seed tree or shelterwood regeneration and selection harvest to maintain an uneven age stand.

Salvage Harvest - The stand is characterized by excessive damage to merchantable timber due to fire, insects, disease, wind, ice or other destructive agents. The best prospect is for removal of damaged or threatened material followed by regeneration.

Time Since Disturbance. The number of years between when the most recent disturbance took place (stand history) and the current time that is used to determine successional trends. Elements include age of sprouts on stumps or damaged trees, color and condition of resin on the stump, stage of decay, bark tightness and tree age.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). From the Clean Water Act, an amount of a given pollutant the is allowed in a Water Quality Limited Stream.

Total/ Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ). The volume of timber planned for sale during the first decade of the planning horizon. It includes the allowable sale quantity (chargeable volume) and any additional material (nonchargeable volume) planned for sale. The timber sale program quantity is expressed as an annual average for the first decade.

Tractor Logging. A logging method that uses tractors to carry or drag logs from the stump to a collection point.

Transitory Range. Rangelands not normally suitable for livestock grazing which have been made suitable for a period of time by a management action. In the Forest Service, mostly pertains to areas that have been logged and provide forage for one or two decades until the trees return at high densities.

Transportation System. All existing and proposed roads, trails, airfields, and other transportation facilities wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forests and other areas administered by the Forest Service or intermingled private lands.

Treatment Area. The site-specific location of a resource improvement activity.

Tree Opening. An opening in the forest cover created by even-aged silvicultural practices.

Trend. The direction of change in ecological status of a plant community usually expressed as moving "toward", "away from", or "not apparent".

TSI (Timber Stand Improvement). Actions to improve growing conditions for trees in a stand, such as thinning, pruning, prescribed fire, or release cutting.

Turbidity. A measure of the optical property that causes light to be scattered and absorbed rather than transmitted in straight lines.

Type Conversion. The conversion of the dominant vegetation in an area from forested to non-forested or from one species to another.

Uncharacteristically Large Wildland Fire. An increase in wildfire size and resistance to control, and the associated impact to people and property compared to that which occurred historically.

Underburn. A burn by a surface fire that can consume ground vegetation and "ladder" fuels.

Understory. The trees and woody shrubs growing beneath the overstory in a stand of trees.

Uneven-Aged Management. Actions that maintain a forest or stand of trees composed of intermingling trees that differ markedly in age. Cutting methods that develop and maintain uneven-aged stands are single-tree selection and group selection.

Unregulated Harvest. Tree harvest that is not part of the allowable sale quantity (ASQ). It can include the removal of cull or dead material or non-commercial species. It also includes volume removed from non-suitable areas for research, to meet objectives other than timber production (such as wildlife habitat improvement), or to improve administrative sites such as campgrounds.

Unsuitable Lands. Forest land that is not managed for timber production. Reasons may be matters of policy, ecology, technology, silviculture or economics. Also applied to lands not suitable for livestock grazing.

Unwated Wildland Fire. Any wildland fire not covered by a Fire Management Plan. This includes all fires occurring outside of approved Wildland Fire Use areas, all non-lightning caused fires, and fires occurring in Wildland Fire Use areas that are not managed for Wildland Fire Use.

Upland Habitat. Habitat located outside of riparian areas or wetlands. Soils are not saturated throughout the growing season.

Use, allowable. An estimate of proper range use. Forty to fifty percent of the annual growth is often used as a rule of thumb on ranges in good to excellent condition. It can also mean the amount of forage planned to be used to accelerate range rehabilitation.

Utility and Transportation Corridors. A strip of land, up to approximately 600 feet in width, designated for the transportation of energy, commodities, and communications by railroad, State highway, electrical power transmission (66 KV and above), oil and gas and coal slurry pipelines 10 inches in diameter or larger, and telecommunication cable and electronic sites for interstate use. Transportation of minor amounts of power for short distances, such as short feeder lines from small power projects including geothermal or wind, or to serve customer service substations along the line, are not to be treated within the Forest Plan effort.

Utilization (of forage).Variability. (Natural variability, historic variability, range of variability) The observed limits of change in composition, structure, and function of an ecosystem over time as influenced by frequency, magnitude and pattern of disturbance.

Variety Class. A way to classify landscapes according to their visual features. This system is based on the premise that landscapes with the greatest variety of diversity have the greatest potential for scenic value.

Vegetation Management or Manipulation. Activities designed primarily to promote the health of forest vegetation for multiple-use purposes.

Vegetation Type. A plant community with distinguishable characteristics.

Vegetative Structural Stage. A method of describing the growth stages of a stand of living trees. It is based on tree size (DBH = diameter at breast height) and total canopy cover. The stages are: Grass/forb/shrub (VSS 1) = 0-1 inch DBH; Seedling/sapling (VSS 2) = 1-5 inches DBH; Young Forest (VSS 3) = 5-12 inches DBH; Mid-aged Forest (VSS 4) = 12-18 inches DBH; Mature Forest (VSS 5) = 18-24 inches DBH; Old Forest (VSS 6) = 24+ inches DBH.

Vertebrate. Species having a backbone or spinal column.

Vertical Diversity. The diversity in a stand that results from the complexity of the above-ground structure of the vegetation; the more tiers of vegetation or the more diverse the species makeup, or both, the higher the degree of vertical diversity.

Vertical Fuel Arrangement. Fuels above the ground and their vertical continuity, which influences fire reaching various vegetation strata.

Viable Population. A number of individuals of a species sufficient to ensure the long-term existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations adequately distributed throughout their region.

Viability. The ability of a population or species to exist over the long-term in natural, self-sustaining populations distributed throughout their region.

Virgin Forest. A natural forest virtually uninfluenced by human activity.

Visual Quality. Degree of obstruction or contrast degradation of viewing a scene due to air contaminants or weather.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's). A set of measurable goals for the management of forest visual resources used to measure the amount of visual contrast with the natural landscape caused by human activities. The following are VQOs:

Preservation -- Ecological change only here.

Retention -- Human activities should not be evident to the casual Forest visitor.

Partial Retention -- Human activity may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification -- Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, follow naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground.

Maximum Modification -- Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Visual Resource. A part of the landscape important for its scenic quality. It may include a composite of terrain, geologic features, or vegetation.

Visual Resource Management Class. An assessment of the relative visual resource quality on National Forest system lands as it relates to potential resource use and/or development. (See Visual Quality Objectives).

Waste Embankment. A man-made pile or heap of rock or earth material, usually left over from mining or construction.

Watershed. The entire region drained by a waterway (or into a lake or reservoir). More specifically, a watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the stream flow at that point.

Water Quality Limited Segment (WQLS). A stream or segment of a stream which has been listed by the State as water quality limited for one or more parameters such as temperature, sediment, contaminants, etc. Required by section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act.

Water Table. The upper surface of groundwater. Below it, the soil is saturated with water.

Water Uses. The status of water uses subject to State water laws that is used to determine the water uses and legal status of waters on the National Forests.

Water Yield. The run-off from a watershed, including groundwater outflow.

Wet Areas. Often referred to as "moist sites," they are very important components of elk summer range. These sites, often occurring at the heads of drainages, may be wet sedge meadows, bogs, or seeps.

Wetlands. Areas that are permanently wet or are intermittently covered with water.

Wilderness (Wilderness Area). Undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character, without permanent human habitation or improvements; It is protected and managed to preserve its natural condition. Wilderness Areas are designated by Congress.

Wildland Fire. Any non-structure fire, other than agency-ignited Prescribed Fire, which occurs in the wildland. This includes Wildland Fire Use and Unwanted Wildland Fire.

Wildland Fire Use. The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific, pre-stated resource management objectives in predefined geographic areas outlined in Fire Management Plans.

Wildland/Urban Interface. The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. The area where humans and their development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Wildlife and Fish User Days (WFUD). A 12-hour day in which a person participates in a wildlife- or fish-related recreation activity that used to determine the annual use of wildlife and fish resources by recreationists on the National Forests.

Wildlife Habitat Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a specific area.

Windthrow. Trees that have been uprooted by the wind.

Wood Fiber Production. The growing, tending, harvesting and regeneration of harvestable trees.

Woodland Products. Harvestable items from forested woodlands. These include fuelwood, nuts, berries, and Christmas trees.

Water Quality Limited Stream (WQLS). Water bodies (or segments of water bodies) listed by EPA as not meeting State water quality standards. They are to be monitored to determine if water quality standards are, or are not, being met. On those not meeting standards, TMDLs may be assigned.

Yarding. Moving cut trees to a centralized place (landing) for hauling away from the stand.

ZOI (Zone of Influence). The areas influenced by Forest Service management activities.