

# Glossary

This glossary defines terms used by the Forest Service to explain natural resource concepts and management activities specific to the final environmental impact statement.

**Adequate Snow:** Sufficient depth, density, and continuity of snow to prevent direct disturbance of ground cover when using a over-snow vehicle to travel cross-country.

**Affected Environment:** The natural, physical and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes from the alternatives.

**Air Pollutant:** Any substance in air that could, if in high enough concentration, harm humans, animals, vegetation, or material. Air pollutants may include almost any natural or artificial matter capable of being airborne, in the form of solid particles, liquid droplets, gases, or a combination of these.

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

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

**Amenity:** Resource use, object, feature, quality, or experience that is pleasing to the mind or senses; typically refers to values for which monetary values are not or cannot be established, such as scenic or wilderness values.

**Analysis Area:** The geographic area defining the scope of analysis for the project. Sometimes for a particular resource, the analysis area may have to be larger when effects have potential to extend beyond the boundaries of the proposal.

**Authorized Road or Trail:** A road or trail that is a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail and that is included in a forest transportation atlas.

**Beneficial Uses:** Attributes that are considered useful products of the resource. They may include (but are not limited to) recreation, production of salmonid fishes, drinking water, power generation, and irrigation.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Methods, measures or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution including, but not limited to, structural and nonstructural controls, operation and maintenance procedures, other requirements, scheduling, and distribution of activities. Usually, BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, economic, and technical feasibility.

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

**Biological Diversity:** The variety of life and its processes, including bacteria and fungi as well as higher forms of life, such as plants, insects, birds, fish and mammals.

**Class I Area:** Under the 1977 Clean Air Act and amendments, all international parks, national parks greater than 6,000 acres, and national wilderness areas greater than 5,000 acres which

existed on August 7, 1977. This class provides the most protection to pristine lands by severely limiting the amount of additional air pollution that can be added to these areas.

**Classified Road:** A road wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that is determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, designated roads, and other roads authorized under a special use authorization or other instruments. The new travel management rule replaced this term with “authorized”, but it is included in the glossary because it is still used by some members of the public and because it is also used in project file documentation that predates the new travel rule.

**Classified Trail:** A trail wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that is determined to be needed for long-term access, recreational use, or resource management, including National Forest System trails, designated trails, and other trails authorized under a special use authorization or other instrument. The new travel management rule replaced this term with “unauthorized”, but it is included in the glossary because it is still used by some members of the public and because it is also used in project file documentation that predates the new travel rule.

**Climate:** The composite or generally prevailing weather conditions of a region throughout the year, averaged over a series of years.

**Closed Road:** A road or segment that is restricted from certain types of use during certain seasons or all of the year. The prohibited use and the period of closure must be specified.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing Federal government activities.

**Community:** A group of one or more populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement; an ecological term used in a broad sense to include groups of various sizes and degrees of integration.

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

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

**Cultural Resources:** The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric, or social values.

**Cumulative Effect:** The impact on the environment, which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other actions over time and space. Individual impacts can either amplify or negate each other depending on the location, timing, and types of interactions involved. Individually minor but collectively significant actions can result from cumulative effects.

**Cumulative Effects Area (CEA):** A mappable boundary defined as an area where individual impacts can accumulate and result in cumulative effects. CEAs are often different for each resource or plant and animal species, and often require consideration of more than one spatial or temporal scale.

**Deciding Officer:** The Forest Service employee who has the authority to select and carry out a specific planning action. For this project, the Fishlake Forest Supervisor is the deciding officer.

**Demographic:** Related to the vital statistics of human populations (size, density, growth, distribution, etc.) and the effect of these on social and economic conditions.

**Designated Road, Trails, or Area:** A National Forest System road, a National Forest System trail, or an area on National Forest System lands that is designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 212.51 on a motor vehicle use map.

**Direct Effects:** Effects on the environment, which occur at the same time and place as the initial cause or action.

**Desired Future Condition:** A portrayal of an objective state for the land or resource conditions, which are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

**Dispersed Campsite:** Temporary undeveloped campsites that are typically created and maintained by forest users. Existing temporary campsites can be distinguished by evidence of rock fire rings, old tent sites, and tracks from earlier vehicle access. On the Fishlake National Forest, motorized vehicles are used to access most of these sites.

**Developed Recreation:** Outdoors recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are ski areas, resorts, and campgrounds.

**Dispersed Recreation:** Outdoors recreation in which visitors are diffused over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of the people.

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

**Ecosystem:** The complete system formed by the interaction of a group of organisms and their environment.

**Ecotone:** An ecological community of mixed vegetation formed by the overlapping of adjoining communities.

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

**Emission:** A release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.

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

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

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

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A detailed statement prepared by the responsible official when a major Federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action provided, and effects analyzed.

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

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

**Existing Route:** A road or trail that currently exists on the ground, but that may or may not be a designated as open to motorized travel. Included are constructed roads and trails maintained by the Forest Service or cooperating agencies. Constructed roads and trails are often characterized by a road or trail prism with cut and fill slopes or throughfills. An existing route may also be an evident two-track and single-track route with regular use that has resulted from continuous passage of motorized vehicles over a period of years where perennial vegetation is devoid or scarce.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA):** Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy and basic management guidance.

**Federal Register:** A daily publication that reports Presidential and Federal agency documents.

**Fish Habitat:** The place where a population of fish species lives and its surroundings; includes the provision of life requirements such as food and cover.

**Fishery:** The total population of fish in a stream or body of water and the physical, chemical, and biological factors affecting that population.

**Floodplain:** The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including, at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

**Flora:** The plant life characteristic of a region, period, or special environment.

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

**Forb:** Any herbaceous (herb-like) plant, other grass or grass-like plants.

**Forest Cover Type:** A descriptive classification of forestland based on the present vegetative species composition or locality (i.e., lodgepole pine, mixed conifer). Most stands are given a classification based on soil or aerial photo interpretations or field inventory that includes the forest cover type, size class, density class, and stand development phase.

**Forest Plan:** Refers to the land and resource management plans that provide strategic guidance to management activities on National Forest System lands.

**Forest Road or Trail:** A road or trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. [36 CFR 212.1]

**Forest Transportation Atlas:** A display of the system of roads, trails, and airfields of an administrative unit. [36 CFR 212.1]

**Forest Travel Atlas:** An inventory, description, display, and other associated information that includes the forest transportation atlas and use map.

**Four Key Threats:** Management issues identified by the Chief of the Forest Service as the greatest threats to the Nation's Forests and grasslands. The four key threats are hazardous fuel reduction, invasive species, loss of open space, and unmanaged recreation. These program areas are currently receiving the highest priority and funding emphasis in the Forest Service. See <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/four-threats/> for more information.

**Fragmentation:** Process by which aquatic or terrestrial habitats are increasingly subdivided into smaller units, resulting in their increased insularity as well as losses of total habitat area.

**Geographic Areas (GAs):** Sub-divisions of the forest defined by topographic, climatic and geologic features, or special habitats or uses that provide a sense of place. The revised forest plan will use geographic areas to refine management strategies and priorities for specific areas. Clear Creek and Monroe Mountain are examples of geographic areas.

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

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

**Hardwoods:** A conventional term for the wood of broadleaf trees. In the decision area, these trees are generally confined to areas near water.

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

**In-Migration:** The movement of new residents into an area.

**Interagency Guidelines:** A recovery plan that identifies important, specific management measures regarding the conduct of multiple-use activities in goshawk habitat, and parameters for identifying the sensitivity of goshawk habitat to human activities.

**Interdisciplinary Team (IDT):** A group of resource professionals with different expertise that collaborate to develop and evaluate resource management decisions.

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

**Irretrievable Impact:** Commitment of a resource would be considered "irretrievable" when the project would directly eliminate the resource, its productivity, and/or its utility for the life of the project.

**Irreversible Impact:** The commitment of a resource would be "irreversible" if the project started a "process" (chemical, biological, and/or physical) that could not be stopped. As a result, the resource or its productivity, and/or its utility would be consumed, committed, or lost forever.

**Issue Indicators:** A "yardstick" for measuring or comparing any changes associated with each issue or concern by alternative. The indicator should have a correlative or definable cause and effect relationship with the issue of concern.

**Invasive Plants:** Nonnative aquatic and terrestrial species have the capacity to dominate, overwhelm, and replace native vegetation. A species is considered invasive if it is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, and if its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Noxious weeds are a subset of invasive plants.

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

**Lower Montane:** A terrestrial community that generally is found in drier and warmer environments than the montane terrestrial community. The lower montane community supports a unique clustering of wildlife species.

**Management Area:** Zoned areas, not necessarily contiguous, which have common management direction.

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

**Management Indicator Species (MIS):** A species of wildlife, fish, or plant whose health and vigor are believed to accurately reflect the health and vigor of other species having similar habitat and protection needs to those of the selected indicator species.

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

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

**Montane:** Inhabiting the cool, moist ecological zone located near the timberline and usually dominated by evergreen trees.

**Motor Vehicle:** Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than: (1) A vehicle operated on rails; and (2) Any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area. [36 CFR 212]

**Motor Vehicle Use Map:** A map reflecting designated roads, trails, and areas on an administrative unit or a Ranger District of the National Forest System. [36 CFR 212.1]

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA):** A law which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality. NEPA requires public disclosure of impacts from federal actions and provides for public involvement in defining issues and alternative management schemes.

**National Forest Management Act (NFMA):** A law passed in 1976 as amendments to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act that requires the preparation of regional and forest plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

**National Forest System:** All national forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States, all national forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange,

donation, or other means, the national grasslands and land utilization projects administered under Title 111.

**National Forest System Road:** A forest road other than a road which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority. [36 CFR 212.1]

**National Forest System Trail:** A forest trail other than a trail which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority. [36 CFR 212.1]

**Native Fish:** Fish species that are indigenous to a region's waters, as opposed to introduced or exotic fish.

**Native Species:** Species that normally live and thrive in a particular ecosystem.

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

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

**Nongame Species:** All wild animals not subject to sport hunting, trapping or fishing regulations.

**Non-motorized:** Modes of travel that include hiking, equestrian, and mountain bikes and excludes all motorized use.

**Nonpoint Source Pollution:** Pollution whose source is not specific in location; the sources of the pollutant discharge are dispersed, not well defined or constant. Examples include sediments from logging activities and runoff from agricultural chemicals.

**Noxious Weeds:** A plant species designated by Federal or State law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the United States. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-639), a noxious weed is one that causes disease or has other adverse effects on people or their environment and therefore is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

**Off-Highway Vehicles or Off-Road Vehicles:** Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. [36 CFR 212.1] Vehicle types include but are not limited to sport utility vehicles, jeeps, ATVs, minibikes, amphibious vehicles, over-snow vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, go-carts, motorized trail bikes, and dune buggies. Wheelchairs that are designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for travel are not included in this definition. *Most issues associated with over-snow vehicles are outside the scope of this project. However, exceptions are noted and addressed where necessary.*

#### **Off-Route Vehicle Designations (FS):**

**Open:** Areas and trails on which all types of motorized vehicles may be operated off roads and motorized trails without restrictions.

**Restricted:** Areas and routes on which motorized vehicle use is restricted by times or season of use, types of vehicles, vehicle equipment, designated areas or trails, or types of activity specified in orders issued under the authority of 36 CFR 361.

**Closed:** Areas and routes on which all motorized vehicle use is prohibited, except by permit, under authority of 36 CFR 261 or by law.

**Open to Public Travel:** Except during scheduled periods, extreme weather conditions or emergencies, is open to the general public for use with a standard passenger auto, without restrictive gates or prohibitive signs or regulations, other than general traffic control or restrictions based on size, weight, or class of registration (23 CFR 660).

**Over-snow Vehicle:** A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow.

**Perennial Streams:** Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

**Plan Amendment:** The system that provides a step-by-step process for considering multiple resource values, resolving conflicts, and making resource management decisions.

**Population:** In statistics - the aggregate of all units forming the subject of study. Otherwise, a community of individuals that share a common gene pool.

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

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

**Programmatic Direction:** An environmental impact statement or other document that establishes a broad management direction for an area by establishing a goal, objective, standard, management prescription, and monitoring and evaluation requirement for different types of activities that are permitted. It also can establish what activities are not permitted within the specific area(s). This document does not mandate or authorize the permitted activities to proceed.

**Project Area:** The spatial boundary that envelops the proposed actions and alternatives.

**Project File:** An assemblage of electronic and hard copy documents that contain all the information developed or used during project development and environmental analyses. This information may be summarized and incorporated by reference in the environmental impact statement. The project file is part of the administrative record for judicial review in case of legal action.

**Ranger District:** An administrative subdivision of the national forest, supervised by a district ranger who reports to the forest supervisor.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** A concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale used to reach that decision.

**Recreation Visitor Days (RVD):** One 12-hour period of recreation. It can be one person for 12 hours, 2 people for 6 hours, 12 people for 1 hour, etc.

**Recreational Opportunities:** The combination of recreation settings, activities and experience provided by the forest.

**Recreational Opportunity Spectrum:** An inventory that defines the types of potential recreational experiences that can be provided by a given environmental setting. The type and amount of access to an area is a primary determinant of the available recreational opportunity.

**Redd:** Spawning nest made by fish in the gravel bed of a river.

**Restricted Route:** A national Forest road or trail which is restricted from a certain type of use or all uses during certain seasons of the year or yearlong. The use and period being restricted must be specified. The closure is legal when the forest supervisor has issued an order and posted that order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.

**Riparian Areas/Habitats:** Land areas where the vegetation and microclimate are influenced by perennial or intermittent water.

**Road:** A motor vehicle route over 50 inches wide, unless identified and managed as a trail. A road may be authorized, unauthorized, or temporary.

**Road Construction or Reconstruction:** Supervising, inspecting, actual building, and incurrence of all costs incidental to the construction or reconstruction of a road. [36 CFR 212.1]

**Roadless Area:** A national forest area which: 1) is larger than 5,000 acres, or if smaller than 5,000 acres, contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area; 2) contains no roads or developments; and 3) has been inventoried for possible inclusion in the wilderness preservation system.

**Route:** A generic term that includes roads and trails as defined in this glossary.

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

**Seasonal Closure:** Area or route closed part of the year. The season of closure is defined by the reason for the closure (e.g. winter range, snow, etc.).

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

**Semi-arid:** Moderately dry; region or climate where moisture is normally greater than under arid conditions but still definitely limits the production of vegetation.

**Sensitive Species:** Those species identified by the regional forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density, or habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

**Shrink-Swell Potential:** The susceptibility of soil to change in volume due to a loss or gain in moisture content. A shrink-swell potential is typically associated with soils that have a high percentage of clay.

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

**Significant:** As used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts, such as society as a whole and the affected region, interests, and locality. Intensity refers to the severity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27).

**Snowmobile:** see over-snow vehicle.

**Special Status Species:** Refers to federally listed Threatened or Endangered species, federal candidate species, species recognized as requiring special protection by state agencies, and species managed as sensitive species by the Forest Service.

**Special Use Permit:** A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of National Forest System lands for some special purpose.

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

**Specified Road:** A Forest System Road, including related transportation facilities and appurtenances.

**Standard:** A particular action, level of performance, or threshold specified by the forest plan for resource protection or accomplishment of management objectives. Unlike “guidelines” which are optional, standards specified in the forest plan are mandatory.

**Subalpine:** A terrestrial community that generally is found in harsher environments than the montane terrestrial community. Subalpine communities are generally colder than montane and support a unique clustering of wildlife species.

**Summer Range:** A range, usually at higher elevation, used by deer and elk during the summer; a summer range is usually much more extensive than a winter range.

**Temporary Campsite:** See the definition for dispersed campsite.

**Temporary Road or Trail:** A road or trail necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas. [36 CFR 212.1] These routes are not considered necessary for long-term access, recreational use, or resource management.

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

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

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

**Trail:** A route 50 inches or less in width, or a route over 50 inches wide that is identified and managed as a trail. A trail may be authorized, unauthorized, or temporary.

**Tribe:** Term used to designate a federally recognized group of American Indians and their governing body. Tribes may be comprised of more than one band.

**Unauthorized Road or Trail:** A road or trail that is not a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas. [36 CFR 212.1] These routes are often called user-created, but the Forest Service built many.

**Understory:** Vegetation (trees or shrubs) growing under the canopy formed by taller trees.

**Undesignated Roads and Trails:** Roads and trails that have not yet gone through site-specific travel planning to determine if they should be open, closed, or restricted to motorized vehicle use or roads and trails that have gone through travel planning and determined that motorized vehicle use is not appropriate and is not allowed.

**Upland:** The portion of the landscape above the valley floor or stream riparian area.

**Viable Populations:** A wildlife population of sufficient size to maintain its existence over time in spite of normal fluctuations in population levels.

**Watershed:** A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular location on a watercourse.

**Weed:** A plant considered undesirable, unattractive, or troublesome, usually introduced and growing without intentional cultivation.

**Wilderness:** All lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System by public law; generally defined as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.

**Wilderness Character:** Characteristics of undeveloped and unroaded areas related to manageability, natural integrity, natural appearance, opportunities for solitude, opportunities for primitive recreation or challenging experiences, special features, and remoteness.

**Winter Range:** A range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory deer and elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.