

GLOSSARY

active nest

In regards to goshawk habitat, a goshawk nest known to have contained an egg. A nest need not have successfully produced fledglings (Utah Northern Goshawk Project Environmental Assessment, October 1999).

activity area

A land area impacted by a management activity, excluding specified transportation facilities, dedicated trails, and mining excavations and dumps. Activity areas include harvest units within timber sales, prescribed burn areas, and grazing areas within allotments. Riparian and other environmentally sensitive areas may be monitored and evaluated as individual activity areas within larger management areas.

adaptive management

A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an on-going process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, evaluation, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches based on scientific findings and the needs of society.

age class

An interval into which the age of species is divided for classification. 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.

allotment (grazing)

Area designated for the use of a certain number and kind of livestock for a prescribed period of time.

alternative

In an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), one of a number of possible options for responding to the purpose and need for action.

aquatic ecosystem

40 CFR 230.3 - Waters of the United States that serve as habitat for interrelated and interacting communities and populations of plants and animals. FSM 2526.05 - The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities and the habitat features that occur therein.

bark beetle

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

big game

Large mammals, such as deer, elk, and antelope that are hunted for sport.

biological diversity (or biodiversity)

The variety and abundance of life and its processes. It includes all living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur. Biological diversity also refers to the compositions, structures, and functions of species and habitats and their interactions.

candidate species

Plant and animal species being considered for listing as endangered or threatened, in the opinion of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Category 1 candidate species are groups for which the FWS or NMFS has sufficient information to support listing proposals; category 2 candidate species are those for which available information indicates a possible problem but need further study to determine the need for listing.

canopy

(1) The vertical projection downward of the aerial portion of vegetation, usually expressed as a percent of the ground so occupied. (2) The aerial portion of the overstory vegetation.

cavity

A hole in a tree often used by wildlife species, usually birds, for nesting, roosting, and reproduction.

clearcut

A harvest method removing all trees in a *stand* in one cutting.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

The general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the federal government.

community

An assemblage of populations of plants and /or animals in a common spatial arrangement.

composition (species)

The species that make up a plant or animal community, and their relative abundance.

concentrated use area

Concentrated Use Area (CUA) is where the Forest Service invest management time or dollars for the management of sites or areas of recreation activity that leave evident impacts, such as litter, vandalism, or soil compaction. Any constructed features or management activities are primarily for resource protection rather than user convenience. The primary management objective is to protect and stabilize natural resources.

conifer

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

connectivity

The degree to which similar but separated vegetation components of a landscape are connected.

conservation agreement

A formal written agreement for implementing the conservation strategy. It describes specific actions and responsibilities of the participating agencies.

conservation strategy

A written document describing specific actions required to reduce or eliminate threats to candidate species or species of special concern and to assure their long-term survival.

corridor (landscape)

Landscape elements that connect similar patches of habitat through an area with different characteristics. For example, streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows or through a forest.

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.

critical habitat

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

cultural resource

The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by people in the past; this can be historical or pre-historic.

cumulative effects

Impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

dbh (diameter at breast height)

The diameter of a tree 4 and 1/2 feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree.

Desired Future Condition (DFC)

A portrayal of the land, resource, or social and economic conditions that are expected to result in 50-100 years if objectives are achieved. A vision of the long-term conditions of the land.

dispersed recreation

Dispersed Recreation is where undeveloped recreation activities and their associated impacts are dispersed through out the Forest. Any constructed amenities or management are for resource protection rather than user convenience. Undeveloped Recreation and Concentrated Use Area are included in Dispersed Recreation.

disturbance

Any event, such as wildfire or a timber sale, that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem.

disturbance regime

All known current and historical *disturbances* of a subject area.

down woody debris

Dead woody material, such as limbs and large roots, on the ground or in streams.

ecological function

The process through which the constituent living nonliving elements of ecosystems change and interact, including biogeochemical processes and succession.

ecological processes

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 present state of vegetation of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential natural community. Described in ecological terms, which are early seral, mid seral, and late seral.

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 health

A condition where the parts and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system's capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for uses, values, and services of the ecosystem are met.

ecotone

The transition zone between two biotic communities, such as between the spruce-fir forest type and the mixed conifer forest, which is found at lower elevations than the spruce-fir.

edge

The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand, or a ponderosa pine stand next to an aspen stand.

endangered species

A plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. The Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 identifies endangered species.

endemic plant/organism- A plant or animal that occurs naturally in a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited geographically. (see also: *indigenous, global distribution*)

ephemeral

A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, receiving little or no water from springs and no long continued supply from snow or other sources, and whose channel is at all times above the water table.

erosion

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

exotic species

All species of plants and animals not naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem of the United States.

fauna

The animal life of an area.

fish-bearing streams

Stream segments that support fish during all or a portion of a typical year.

fisheries habitat

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

floodplain

The land bordering a stream or river subject to overflow flooding during periods of high water level.

flora

The plant life of an area.

forbs

Broadleaf ground vegetation with little or no woody material.

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.

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.

global distribution

The occurrences of plant and animals over their range. Commonly referred to in terms of endemism including disjunct (separated from the main population), local endemic (range of

distribution is less than 100 square miles), regional endemic (global distribution is between 100 and 10,000 square miles), sparsely distributed (widespread but sporadic), peripheral (on the edge of its range), widespread, and circumboreal or circumpolar.

global ranking

Global rank indicator is based on the worldwide distribution at the species level.

- **G1** = Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EO) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.
- **G2** = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.
- **G3** = 21-100 EOs OR 3000-10000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres.
- **G4** = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern (i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat).
- **G5** = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world

goal

A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved some time in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms, without any specific date for attainment.

ground cover

The percentage of material, other than bare ground (or pavement – rock less than ¾ inch in diameter), covering the land surface. It may include live vegetation, standing dead vegetation, litter, cobble, gravel, stones and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground and pavement would total 100 percent.

guideline

The preferred or advisable course of action designed to promote the achievement of *goals* and *objectives*.

habitat

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

home range

In regards to goshawk habitat, the area that a goshawk habitually uses during nesting, resting, bathing, foraging, and roosting. A nesting home range contains nest areas (*active nests* and historical nests), the *Post Fledgling Area (PFA)*, and the foraging area (Utah Northern Goshawk Project Environmental Assessment, October 1999).

hydrology

The study of the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on the earth's surface, in the soil and rocks, and in the atmosphere.

increaser

Plant species of the original vegetation that increase in relative amount, at least for a time, under overuse.

indicators

A measure of or surrogate for the elements of ecosystem management.

indigenous (species)

A species which originally inhabited a particular National Forest or National Grassland.

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.

intermittent stream

A stream or portion of a stream that does not flow year-round but only when it receives base flow solely during wet periods, or receives groundwater discharge or protracted contributions from melting snow or other erratic surface and shallow subsurface sources.

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.

litter

The freshly fallen or only slightly decomposed plant material covering the soil surface.

Lynx Analysis Unit (LAU)

An project analysis unit upon which direct, indirect, and cumulative effects analyses are performed. LAU boundaries remain constant to facilitate planning and allow effective monitoring of habitat changes over time. They are generally the size used by an individual lynx, about 25-50 square miles. These units were developed in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

macroinvertebrate

An animal having no backbone or internal skeleton, large enough to be seen without magnification.

MIS (Management Indicator Species)

Representative species whose habitat conditions and population changes are used to assess the impacts of management activities on similar species in a particular area.

monitoring

The process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated results of a management plan are being realized, or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

native species

All species of plants and animals naturally occurring, either presently or historically, in any ecosystem of the United States.

natural range of variability

See *range of variability*

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act)

An abbreviation for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which requires environmental analysis and public disclosure of federal actions.

niche

A situation or activity specially suited to a Forest's character or ability.

noxious weed

Those plant species designated as noxious weeds by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the responsible State official. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host of serious insects or disease, and being native or new to or not common to the United States or parts thereof (FSM 2080).

objective

A concise time-specific statement of measurable planned results that move toward pre-established *goals*. An objective helps define the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified *goals*.

OHV (Off Highway Vehicle)

See *ORV*

ORV (Off-Road Vehicles),

Vehicles such as motorcycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and 4-wheelers.

overgrazing

Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of the community and creates a deteriorated range.

overstory

In a forest with multiple layers of vegetation, the portion of the trees forming the uppermost (canopy) layer.

partial cut

A cutting by which only a part of the stand is removed. It usually implies a series of such cuttings.

perennial

When referring to bodies of water, perennial waters are defined as waters that are present during all seasons of a year.

PFC

See Properly Functioning Condition.

point source

A source of pollutants that is discernable and confined such as a pipe, ditch, channel, conduit, or tunnel. Point sources exclude agricultural discharges (see *non-point source*).

pole/sapling

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

Post Fledgling Area (PFA)

In reference to goshawk habitat, an area of concentrated use by the goshawk family after the young leave the nest. (From the Utah Northern Goshawk Project Environmental Assessment, October 1999). Identify a Post-Fledgling Area (PFA) that encompasses the active, alternate, and replacement goshawk nest sites and additional habitat needed to raise fledglings. A PFA should be approximately 420 acres in size (in addition to the 180 nest area acres) when sufficient suitable habitat exists. If sufficient amounts of suitable habitat are not present, use existing suitable habitat that is available.

prescribed fire

Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met before ignition

properly functioning condition (PFC)

Ecosystems are in PFC when they function within their historic range of variability.

proposed action

The project or set of activities that a federal agency intends to implement, as defined in NEPA regulations.

recommended sensitive plant- Those plants that meet the criteria for the regional sensitive species list, but have not been formally placed on the list.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

A framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for obtaining experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum divided into six classes--primitive, semiprimitive non-motorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban.

riparian (riparian ecosystem)

Land areas that are directly influenced by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Steamsides, lake borders, or marshes are typical of riparian areas. The ecosystems around or next to water areas that support unique vegetation and animal communities as a result of the influence of water.

ROS

See *Recreation Opportunity Spectrum*

scoping

The process the Forest Service uses to determine, through public involvement, the range of issues that the planning process should address.

sensitive species

Plant and animal species, selected 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, and significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution. Sensitive species are not covered in the Endangered Species Act.

seral stage

The stage of succession of a plant or animal community that is transitional. If left alone, the earlier seral stages will give way to another community that represents a further stage of succession. For example, following fire, forests are replaced by shrubs and/or herbaceous plant communities. These are described as being in an early seral stage.

snag

A standing dead tree.

Species At Risk (SAR)

Federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species and other species for which loss of viability, including reduction in distribution or abundance, is a concern within the plan area. Other species-at-risk include sensitive species and may include state listed species. A species-at-risk also may be selected as a focal species.

For the Wasatch-Cache Plan revision, the term “species-at-risk” includes:

- Fish and Wildlife Service endangered, threatened, candidate, proposed species.
- Regional Forester designated sensitive species.
- Wasatch-Cache National Forest recommended sensitive species, which are other species that meet the definition of sensitive, but have not been officially listed as sensitive

Also considered for inclusion as species-at-risk were species identified by:

- The Nature Conservancy as G1, G2,G3, T1, T2, and T3.
- State Natural Heritage programs as S1, and S2
- Partners in Flight species of concern.
- The Forest that do not appear on any other lists.

The SAR list is dynamic and species will be added as deemed necessary or removed as recovery occurs or new information indicates they are not at risk.

stand

A contiguous group of trees sufficiently uniform in *age class* distribution, *composition*, and *structure*, and growing on a site of sufficiently uniform quality to be a distinguishable unit.

standard

A required course of action or a level of attainment designed to promote achievement of *goals* and *objectives*.

state rankings

State rank indicator, based on distribution within Utah or Wyoming at the lowest taxonomic level.

- **S1** = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 100 individuals OR less than 2000 acres
- **S2** = 6-20 EOs OR 1000-3000 individuals OR 2000-10000 acres
- **S3** = 21-100 EOs OR 3000-10000 individuals OR 10000-50000 acres
- **S4** = Apparently secure within the State; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern (i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT RANK.
- **S5** = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in the State. NO THREAT RANK.

structure

The size and arrangement, both vertically and horizontally, of vegetation.

succession

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

threatened species

Designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a plant or animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

viable populations

A population which has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the planning area (36 CFR 219.19).

watch list plants

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest designates watch list plant species. These species do not meet the definition of Species At Risk, but their populations may be on the edge of their range, disjunct, local endemics, or regional endemics, or are rare throughout their distribution but, through analysis, are found to be relatively unaffected by activities that occur on the Forest. These plants have stable population numbers, density, and habitat capability, and are predicted to remain stable. Should populations of these plants be negatively effected by allowed activities, a review of impacts may result in plants being recommended as Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive.

watershed

A land area that contributes all its water to one drainage system, basin, stream, or river. Watersheds can be described at multiple scales. For example, the entire area draining to the Green River, above its confluence with the Colorado River, is a watershed. Likewise, the area draining to the Duchesne River above its confluence with the Green River is also a watershed, as is the drainage of Wolf Creek above its confluence with the West Fork of the Duchesne River. In this *DEIS* and Draft Forest Plan, “watershed” specifically refers to a drainage area of approximately 50,000 to 100,000 acres, which is equivalent to a 5th order *Hydrologic Unit Code*.

See *Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)* for more information on watershed classifications.

wetland

An area that is either permanently inundated with water or has seasonally high water tables that support vegetation requiring these conditions for growth and reproduction. See also *non-stream or -lake related wetlands* and *stream or lake related wetlands*.