

APPENDIX F - GLOSSARY

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

Age class distribution –A grouping of trees by a range of ages.

Basal area - The area of the cross section of a tree trunk near its base. 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 of trees per acre.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – A set of management practices for reducing potential impacts from non-point source pollution to a level compatible with water quality goals.

Biological Assessment – A "biological evaluation" conducted for major Federal construction projects requiring an environmental impact statement, in accordance with legal requirements under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536(c)). The purpose of the assessment and resulting document is to determine whether the proposed action is likely to affect a federally listed endangered, threatened, or proposed species.

Biological Evaluation - A documented Forest Service review of Forest Service programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or Regional Forester Sensitive Species.

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

Board foot (bf) - A measurement term for lumber or timber. It is the amount of wood contained in an unfinished board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide.

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 an adjacent area. For example, a buffer of mature trees could be left along a trail to block an undesirable view.

Canopy - The part of any stand of trees represented by the tree crowns. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest.

Canopy gap - A break in the upper-most layer of foliage large enough to allow sunlight to reach the forest floor.

Cavity - A hole in a tree often used by wildlife species (birds and mammals) for nesting, roosting, or reproduction.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

Classified road - Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including State roads, county roads, privately owned roads, National Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36 CFR 212.1).

Clearcut - A harvest in which all or almost all of the trees are removed in one cutting.

Composition - What an ecosystem is composed of. Composition could include water, minerals, trees, snags, wildlife, soil, microorganisms, and plants.

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

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

Cumulative effects – The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. (40 CFR 1508.7).

dbh (diameter at breast height) - The diameter of a tree at 4 1/2 feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree.

DEIS – see “Draft Environmental Impact Statement”.

Den tree – Live tree with cavities or defects that are useful to wildlife species. Usually refers to a live tree with a cavity currently in use by a mammal or bird species.

Design criteria – Criteria or measures that are used to define or refine a project to meet the desired outcome.

Disturbance – An event that causes changes from the normal pattern in the ecological system.

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

Drawdown – Water level manipulation of a water impoundment or flowage. Involves the removal of all or part of the water in an impoundment or flowage with water control structures.

Early successional – Forest habitat consisting primarily of those tree species that are shade intolerant, and need disturbance to regenerate. Quaking aspen and paper birch are examples of two of the most common early successional trees species in the project area.

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.

Edge - The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand. In this analysis, edge habitat is forest over 30 years old that is within 100 meters of younger forest.

EIS – See “Environmental Impact Statement”.

Emergent vegetation – Refers to plants growing in water. Those plant species that, when mature, have part of the plant above the level of the water surface. Examples include bulrush and wild rice.

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

Environmental Assessment (EA) – A concise public document that 1) briefly provides sufficient analysis for determining whether or not to prepare an environmental impact statement and 2) aid in an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no environmental impact statement is necessary. (40 CFR 1508.9).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A detailed written statement on the environmental effects of a proposal and alternatives to the proposal. (40 CFR 1508.11).

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

Even-aged management - Timber management actions that result in the creation of stands of trees in which the trees are essentially the same age.

Felling - Cutting down trees.

Floodplain – The lowland and relatively flat areas joining streams and rivers that have a specified chance of flooding in any given year (generally a minimum of one percent or 100 year recurrence).

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

Forest roads and trails - Roads and trails under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

Fragmentation - The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat, typically forest cover, but including other types of habitat.

FSH – Forest Service Handbook.

FSM – Forest Service Manual.

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

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.

Habitat - The area (ecosystem) where a plant or animal lives and grows.

Heritage resource – A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may

include definite locations (sites and places) of traditional heritage or religious important to specific social and /or heritage groups. Heritage resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit.

Impoundment – An artificially created body of water that is usually created by damming a creek or river.

Individual tree selection - The removal of individual trees from a variety of size and age classes over an entire stand area.

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

Interior forest - For this analysis, interior forest is defined as areas or stands of trees that are over 30 years old and are at least 100 meters away from any younger forest. Also see “edge”.

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

Invasive species - A species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration **and** 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. (Executive Order 13112).

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

Landscape - A large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated across the area due to factors such as geology, soils, climate, and human impacts.

Landscape pattern - The arrangement of species and communities in a natural setting.

Landtype Association (LTA) – Ecological classification of land considering primarily geology, landform, and climate. Typical size of an area would be in the tens of square miles.

Leave islands – Groups of trees left uncut within a clearcut or other overstory removal treatment. Leave islands are used for the benefit of a variety of resources.

Mbf – One thousand board feet (see board feet).

MIS (management indicator species) - A plant or animal species related to a particular kind of environment. Its presence indicates that specific habitat conditions are also present.

Mineral soil – A soil consisting predominantly of inorganic matter, usually containing less than 20% organic matter.

Mitigation - Actions taken to avoid, minimize, or rectify the unwanted environmental impact of a land management practice.

MMbf – One million board feet (see board feet).

Monitoring and evaluation - The periodic evaluation of forest management activities to determine how well objectives were met and how management practices should be adjusted.

Native species – with respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

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

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) - Congress passed NEPA in 1969 to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between people and their environment. One of the major tenets of NEPA is its emphasis on public disclosure of possible environmental effects of any major action on public lands.

NFLRMP (National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan) - Also called the Forest Plan or just the Plan, this document guides the management of a particular National Forest and establishes management standards and guidelines for all lands of that National Forest.

NFMA (National Forest Management Act) - This law was passed in 1976 and requires, among other things, the preparation of Forest Plans.

Invasive species - A species that is 1) non-native (or alien) to the ecosystem under consideration **and** 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. ([Executive Order 13112](#)).

NOI (Notice of Intent) - A notice in the Federal Register of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposed action.

Overstory - The group of plants in the upper canopy layer of an area. The plants below comprise the understory.

Overstory removal harvest - The removal of the last seed bearers or shelter trees after regeneration is established.

Partial retention - A visual quality objective which, in general, means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Patch – An area of homogeneous vegetation, in structure or composition, or both.

Perennial stream - A stream that flows continuously throughout the year.

Pioneer vegetation – Are those sun loving species, such as aspen, balsam fir, and paper birch that normally are the first tree species to re-vegetate areas that are open.

Plantation – A forest crop or stand raised artificially, either by seeding or planting young trees.

Prescribed fire - Fire set intentionally in wildland fuels under prescribed conditions and circumstances.

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

Pulpwood - Trees that are generally less than 11 inches dbh that are utilized for chipped or paper products.

Ranger District (RD) - 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, hawk, or owl species.

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

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

Reforestation - The restocking of an area with trees, by either natural or artificial means, such as planting.

Regeneration - The renewal of tree cover by either natural or artificial means. The term is also used to refer to the young tree cover itself.

Regional Forester Sensitive Species (RFSS) – See “sensitive species”.

Release – In reference to tree harvest means the removal of competing vegetation to allow desired tree species to grow.

Reserve islands – See “leave islands”.

Residual stand - The trees remaining after a timber harvest activity has occurred.

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

Retention – A visual quality objective which in general means man’s activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.

RFSS – Regional Forester Sensitive Species. See “sensitive species”.

Riparian habitat – A transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem that is identified by soil characteristics and distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.

Road - A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary (36 CFR 212.1).

Road closure – A way or method in which a road may be closed. A road closure devise may be a sign, gate, berm, rock or other materials to effectively prevent cars and trucks from utilizing a road.

Road construction - Activity that results in the addition of forest classified or temporary road miles.

Road decommissioning - Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state.

Road maintenance - The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective.

Roaded natural setting – A predominantly natural environment with evidence of moderate permanent alteration of resources and resource utilization.

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

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 generally 11 inches dbh or larger that are utilized for lumber and veneer products.

Scoping – The procedure by which the Forest Service identifies important issues and determines the extent of analysis necessary for an informed decision on a proposed action. (FSH 1909.15, zero code).

Sediment – Soil that has eroded from the land surface, often by overland water flow, and is then transported and deposited away from its original location. Sedimentation is the process of sediment collecting in a water way.

Sensitive species (Regional Forester Sensitive Species) – Those plants and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in numbers and density. (FSM 2670.15).

Selection harvest – See “individual tree selection”.

Semi-primitive, motorized setting – An environment with moderate alteration of resources with strong evidence of permanent roads and trails.

Shelterwood - A cutting method, used in a mature stand of trees, designed to establish regeneration under the protection (cover) of the overstory.

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

Site preparation - The general term for removing unwanted vegetation, slash, roots, and stones from a site before reforestation.

Size class - One of the three intervals of tree stem diameters used to classify timber in Forest Service data bases. The size classes are: Seedling-sapling (less than 5 inches dbh); Poletimber (up to 11 inches dbh); Sawtimber (greater than 11 inches dbh).

Skidding - Hauling logs by sliding them along the ground from the stump to a collection point.

Slash - The tree residue left on the ground after timber cutting or left after a storm, fire, or other event. Slash includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken or uprooted trees, branches, and bark.

Snag - A standing dead tree.

Soil compaction - The reduction of soil volume by force.

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.

Spot planting – Planting seedlings in small areas that are void of other acceptable tree species.

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

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

Stocking level - The number of tree in an area as compared to the desirable number of trees required to meet set objectives.

Structure - How the parts of ecosystems are arranged, both horizontally and vertically. Structure might reveal a pattern, or mosaic, or total randomness of vegetation.

Succession – The progressive development of vegetation toward its highest ecological expression, the climax; replacement of one plant community by another.

Supercanopy pine – Those red or white pine trees which are taller than the surrounding trees.

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

Sustainable - The yield of a natural resource that can be produced continually at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable.

Temporary road – Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, other written authorization, or emergency operation, not intended to be a part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management.

Thinning - A cutting made in an immature stand of trees to accelerate growth of the remaining trees or to improve the form of the remaining trees.

Threatened species - Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of their range within the foreseeable future, which are designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Timber stand improvement - Actions to improve growing conditions for trees in a stand, such as thinning, pruning, prescribed fire, or release cutting.

Trout habitat – General inland trout habitat consists of cold water streams, ponds or springs with exposed gravel for spawning. A Class I trout stream has high quality trout waters, sufficient natural reproduction to sustain populations of wild trout at or near carrying capacity and do not require stocking. Class II trout streams may have some natural reproduction, but not enough to utilize available food and space, stocking is usually required to maintain a desirable sport fishery. These streams have good survival and carryover of adult trout. Class III trout streams are those that have marginal trout habitat and no natural reproduction occurring. They require annual stocking of trout to provide for trout fishing, and generally there is no carryover of trout from one year to the next.

Type (forest type) - Stands of a particular vegetation type that are composed of similar species.

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

Unclassified road – Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail: and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization (36 CFR 212.2).

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. An example of a cutting method that develops and maintains uneven-aged stands is individual tree selection harvest.

USDA – United States Department of Agriculture

USDI – United States Department of Interior

Vegetation management - Activities designed primarily to promote the health and productivity of vegetation to meet multiple-use objectives.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO) – One of five classes generally describing the degree of acceptable alteration of the naturally appearing landscape.

VQO – See “Visual Quality Objective”.

Waterfowl – Those birds that require water, often referring to duck, geese, or swan species.

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 table - The upper surface of groundwater. Below it, the soil is saturated with water.

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