



Definitions

age class – A group of trees arranged according to tree age. Usually it is expressed as a range of ages. For example, the forest could be divided into age classes by creating four groups of trees ranging from 0-to 9 years, 10 to 59 years, 60 to 119 years, and trees over 120 years.

alpine – open areas on Vermont’s highest peaks, generally above 4,000 feet elevation, where cold temperatures and high winds favor low plants that can tolerate these conditions. Trees are generally few and stunted. Alpine and subalpine communities often intermingle.

anadromous fish - Species of fish that mature in the sea and migrate into streams to spawn.

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 the habitat.

“B” management area lands – Areas not managed for timber due to economic conditions

capable – The potential of an area 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 on current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology, as well as the application of management practices such as silvicultural protection from fire, insects, and disease.

commercial tree harvesting – The removal of trees for timber production.

cover type (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.

escarpment: A long cliff or steep slope separating two comparatively level or more gently sloping surfaces and resulting from erosion or faulting. An escarpment forms the western boundary of the GMNF.

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.

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.

even-aged management- Timber management actions that result in the creation of stands of trees in which the trees are essentially the same age. Thinning, clearcuts, and shelterwood cuts are all examples of even-aged management.

fire regime- The characteristics of fire in a given ecosystem, such as the frequency, predictability, intensity, and seasonality of fire.

management area (MA) Areas of the National Forest designated in the Forest Plan as having similar management objectives. Similar to city planning zones.

non-commercial tree harvesting The removal of trees for reasons other than timber production.

non-native invasive species (NNIS)- species not native to the United States, or a region within the United States, that have limited to no native controls over their population growth. These limited controls can lead to fast-growing large populations of non-native species that swamp out native species. These species are generally considered detrimental to the environment, crops or other desirable plants, livestock, land, or other property, or are injurious to public health.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) A formal Forest Service process designed to delineate, define, and integrate outdoor recreation opportunities in land and resource management planning. ROS classes are used to describe all recreation opportunity areas; from natural, undisturbed, and undeveloped to heavily used, modified and developed. ROS designations attempt to describe the kind of recreation experience one may expect to have in a given part of the National Forest. The ROS classes, which apply to the Green Mountain National Forest, include:

roaded natural - This setting is characterized by a predominately natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized forms of recreation are possible. Motorized use permitted on designated roads and trails, and off-road (where not restricted). In this setting there is an equal probability of experiencing affiliation with other user groups, and experiencing isolation from sights and sounds of humans. Challenge and risk opportunities associated with more primitive types of recreation are not very important. Natural settings may have modifications, which range from being easily noticed to strongly dominant. Roads and/or highways present, structures readily apparent.

semi-primitive motorized – This setting is characterized by a predominately natural or natural appearing environment of moderate to large size (generally greater than 2,500 acres). Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. Motorized use is permitted on designated roads and trails and off-road (where not restricted). In this setting there is a moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, and self-reliance through the application of outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Management activities mimic natural occurrences. Primitive roads may be present, structures are rare and isolated. Snowmobile use is possible.

semi-primitive non-motorized - This setting is characterized by a predominately natural or natural appearing environment of moderate to large size (generally greater than 2,500 acres). Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. Motorized use is not permitted (some administrative use is permitted). Wheelchairs are permitted. In this setting there is a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of humans, and self-reliance through the application of outdoor skills in an environment that offers challenge and risk. Management activities mimic natural occurrences. Primitive roads may be present, and structures are rare and isolated.

primitive 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.

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

subalpine - areas on Vermont's highest peaks, generally above 3,500 feet elevation, where cold temperatures and high winds favor stunted trees and low plants that can tolerate these conditions. Low, dense thickets of balsam fir and black spruce are typical, also known as "krummholz"; harsh winds, ice, and snow stress the trees to the extent that they never grow to full size. Alpine and subalpine communities often intermingle.

sustained yield - Yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously over time at a given intensity of management. This is required by federal law, the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act.

tentatively suitable – Forest land capable of growing industrial crops of timber, but was not in a Management Area that the Forest Plan deemed appropriate for timber production. ie.. MA 9.2.

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

Threatened and Endangered Species (TES) – see individual definitions of threatened species and endangered species.

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.

unsuitable lands - Forest land that is not managed for timber production. Reasons may be matters of policy, ecology, technology, silviculture, or economics.

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

9.2 Lands – Newly acquired lands where future management options will be kept open until inventories can be done.