

7 GLOSSARY

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.

airshed - A geographic area that 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 planting, may be more important at a given time.

arterial road - A forest road that provides service to large land areas and usually connects with other arterial roads or public highways (FSH 7709.54 – Forest Transportation Terminology Handbook, no longer in print).

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

ASQ (allowable sale quantity) - The amount of timber that may be sold within a certain time period from an area of suitable land. The suitability of the land and the time period are specified in the Forest Plan.

attainment areas - Those areas that meet national air quality standards.

background - The distant part of a landscape, from 3-5 miles to infinity from the viewer (VMS), (4 miles to horizon (SMS)).

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.

basal area - The area of the cross section of a tree trunk near its base, usually 4 and 1/2 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 of trees per acre.

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

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 the ecological processes that connect everything in a common environment.

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

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 America includes 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) - Designed to prevent or reduce water pollution. Also referred to as Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs).

board foot - 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.

broadcast burn - A prescribed fire that burns a designated area with an almost continuous fuel bed. These controlled fires can reduce wildfire hazards, improve forage for wildlife and livestock, or encourage successful regeneration of trees.

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.

BTU - British Thermal Unit; the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit.

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.

cable logging - Taking logs from the stump area to a landing using an overhead system of winch-driven cables to which logs are attached with chokers.

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 cover - See cover class.

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).

casual forest visitor - The average temporary recreation visitor with an interest in the scenic qualities of an area.

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

chain - A unit of length equal to 66 feet (20.1 meters).

characteristic landscape - The naturally established landscape within a scene being viewed. It represents the basic vegetative patterns, landforms, rock formations, and water forms which are in the view (VMS).

chemical control - The use of pesticides and herbicides to control pests and undesirable plant species.

class I areas - All international and national parks greater than 6,000 acres, and national wilderness areas greater than 5,000 acres that existed as of August 7, 1977. This class provides the most protection to pristine lands by severely limiting the amount of additional human-caused air pollution that can be added to these areas.

class II areas - All other areas of the county, unless upgraded to Class I. A greater amount of additional human-caused air pollution may be added to these areas. All Forest Service lands which are not designated as Class I are Class II.

class III areas - Areas having the least amount of regulatory protection from additional air pollution. To date, no Class III areas have been designated anywhere in the country.

classified roads - 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 CFS 212.1).

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

climax - The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site. Climax vegetation is stable, self-maintaining, and self-reproducing.

collector roads - A forest road that serves smaller land areas than an arterial road. Usually connects forest arterial roads to local forest roads or terminal. (FSH 7709.54 – Forest Transportation Terminology Handbook, no longer in print)

common variety class - Areas where variety in form, line, color, and texture tend to be common in the character type and are not outstanding in visual quality (VMS).

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

community - A group of plants and animals living together and occupying a given area.

concentration burn – A method of broadcast burning used primarily to burn excess fuels where the fuels are not continuous.

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

connected actions - Are actions which means that they are closely related and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement.

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.

consumptive use - Use of resources that reduces the supply, such as logging and mining.

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.

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 = <40% canopy cover; cover class B = 40-60% canopy cover; cover class C = >60% canopy cover.

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

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.

created opening - An opening in the forest cover created by the application of even-aged silvicultural practices (greater than 2 acres in size).

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

crown closure - See cover class.

crown height - The distance from the ground to the base of the crown of a tree.

cultural landscape - Human-altered landscapes, especially those slowly evolving landscapes with scenic vegetation patterns or scenic structures. These elements create a visually pleasing complement to the natural character of a landscape (SMS).

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

cumulative actions - Actions which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts and should therefore be discussed in the same impact statement.

cumulative effects - Effects on the environment that result from separate, individual actions that, collectively, become significant over 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.

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.

decommission - Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state (36 CFS 212.1), (FSM 7703)

desired future condition - Land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

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.

direct effects - Effects caused by the action and occur at the same time and place. CFR 40 1508.8 (a)

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

distance zones - Divisions of a landscape being viewed, broken into foreground, middleground, and background (VMS), (SMS).

distinctive - Areas where features of landform, vegetative patterns, water forms, and rock formations are of unusual or outstanding visual quality (VMS) (SMS).

disturbance - Any event, such as forest fire or insect infestations that alter the structure, composition, or functions of an ecosystem.

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 - An approach to natural resource management that considers the relationships among all organisms, including humans, and their environment.

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

ecoregion - An area over which the climate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites that have similar properties. Ecoregions contain many landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems.

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 management - An ecological approach to natural resource management to assure productive, healthy ecosystems by blending social, economic, physical, and biological needs and values

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

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.

edge effect - The increased richness of plants and animals resulting from the mixing of two communities where they join.

element (of ecosystems) - An identifiable component, process, or condition of an ecosystem.

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.

enhancement - A short-term management prescription with the purpose of increasing positive scenic attributes where few exist (VMS), (SMS).

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. (See Environmental Impact Statement.)

Environmental Impact Statement - A statement of environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives to it. The EIS is released to other agencies and the public for comment and review.

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.

evident - The perceived landscape which is apparent to the casual forest visitor.

felling - Cutting down trees.

fire cycle - The average time between fires in a given area.

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

500-year floodplain - A land surface feature found in a river or stream valley bottom that is composed of stream deposited materials and, on average, is inundated with floodwaters once every 500 years.

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 and livestock.

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

foreground - Detailed landscape generally found from the observer up to ½ mile away (VMS), (SMS).

forest cover type - See cover type.

forest highways - A forest road under the jurisdiction of, and maintained by, a public authority and open to public travel (USC: Title 23, Section 101(a)).

forest roads - As defined in Title 23, Section 101 of the United States Code (23 U.S.C. 101), any road wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System and which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

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

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

form - Structure, mass or shape of a landscape or object. Landscape form is often defined by edges or outlines of landforms, rockforms, waterforms or vegetative patterns or the enclosed spaces within (VMS), (SMS).

forwarder (harvesting) - A self-propelled machine, usually self-loading, that transport trees or logs by carrying them completely off the ground.

fragmentation - The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat, typically forest cover, but including other types of habitat. Habitat can be fragmented naturally (by fire or insects) or from forest management activities, such as clear-cut logging.

frame of reference - An area or framework against which various parts can be judged or measured (i.e. Character Type) (VMS), (SMS).

fuel groups - Fuel properties that have become known as fuel models and can be organized into four groups: grass, shrub, timber, and slash.

fuel loading - The amount of tons per acre of down and dead woody material on a site. It can be further expressed in size categories and each category can then be expressed in tons per acre. Example 1/4" -1" size class tons/acre or can be calculated as total tons per acre.

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

fuels management - The treatment of fuels that would otherwise interfere with effective fire management or control. For 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.

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.

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 surface.

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.

ground-based yarding - A self-propelled vehicle used to transport logs, generally by dragging them with a grapple or choker.

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.

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 type can support certain climax vegetation, both tree and undergrowth species. Habitat typing can indicate the biological potential of a site.

helicopter yarding - The removal of timber by a helicopter lifting the logs above the remaining canopy and flying the logs to a landing.

hiding area/cover - Vegetation capable of hiding 90% of an adult elk or deer from human's view at a distance of 200 feet or less.

historic - For this document, historic refers to time after people who recorded history through written records, generally Euro-Americans, entered the area.

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 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.

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.

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.

hydrophobic – The ability of a material to repel water.

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.

indirect effects - Caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, (CFR 40 1508.8 (b)).

individual 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 or 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.

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.

intactness - Untouched or unaltered, especially by anything that harms or diminishes its character (SMS).

integrated pest management - IPM evaluates alternatives for managing forest pest populations, based on consideration of pest-host relationships.

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 4, which includes National Forests in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho, and southwestern Wyoming.

inventoried roadless areas (IRA) - Those areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November, 2000, which are held at the National Headquarters of the Forest Service, or any update, correction, or revision of those maps.

irretrievable - One of the categories of impacts mentioned in the National Environmental Policy Act to be included in statements of environmental impacts. An irretrievable effect applies to losses of production or commitment of renewable natural resources. For example, while an area is used as a ski area, some or all of the timber production there is irretrievably lost. If the ski area closes, timber production could resume; the loss of timber production during the time that the area was devoted to winter sports is irretrievable. However, the loss of timber production during that time is not irreversible, because it is possible for timber production to resume if the area is no longer used as a ski area.

irreversible - A category of impacts mentioned in statements of environmental impacts that applies to non-renewable resources, such as minerals and archaeological sites. Irreversible effects can also refer to effects of actions that can be renewed only after a very long period of time, such as the loss of soil productivity.

jackpot burning - A modified method of broadcast burning used primarily to burn concentrations of fuel where the fuel is not continuous, also called concentration burning.

jammer - A lightweight ground lead yarder using tongs and usually mounted on a truck with a spar and boom.

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.

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

land class - The topographic relief of a unit of land. Land classes are separated by slope; this coincides with the timber inventory process. The Forest Plan uses three land classes defined by the following slope ranges: 0 to 35 percent, 36 to 55 percent, and greater than 55 percent.

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

landline - The boundary lines for National Forest System 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 character - Particular attributes, qualities, and traits of a landscape that give it an image and make it identifiable and unique.

landslide events: Low frequency/high magnitude - Infrequent landslide events that occur over a regional (high magnitude) rather than localized area caused by high precipitation cycles (low frequency); usually two or more consecutive years of above average annual precipitation and snowpack. The above average wet cycles typically cause saturation of perched water bearing zones and regolith (unconsolidated materials including soil) and flooding during spring snowmelt/runoff in widespread areas. These conditions cause numerous landslides in geologically unstable areas.

landslide events: High frequency/low magnitude - Localized (low magnitude) landslides or landslide events which typically occur during average or below average precipitation years or cycles. They are typically caused by earthquakes or localized changes in geologic conditions (topography, drainage patterns, ground moisture, slope support mechanisms) due to natural processes or man's activities. They are considered high frequency because they are not restricted to low frequency high precipitation cycles.

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.

large, intense wildland fire - Large, intense wildland fires, for this project, are described as: 200 acres or greater; 30% or greater tree mortality sub-alpine fir; greater than 100 tons/acre of PM-10 emissions; and 50% or greater duff consumption.

late forest succession - The stage of forest succession in which most of the trees are mature or overmature.

life zone - Areas or "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. Examples of life zones include the Upper Sonoran, where Cedar City is located, and grama grasses, sagebrush, and scattered pinyon-juniper predominate, and the Transition zone, where ponderosa pine is predominant.

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.

local road - A forest road that connects terminal facilities with forest collector, forest arterial or public highways. Usually forest local roads are single purpose transportation facilities (FSH 7709.54 – Forest Transportation Terminology Handbook, no longer in print).

logging residue (slash) - The residue left on the ground after timber cutting. It includes un-utilized 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.

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

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

maintenance level - Defines the level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road, consistent with road management objectives and maintenance criteria (FSH 7709.58, Sec 12.3-Transportation System Maintenance Handbook).

maintenance level 1 - Assigned to intermittent service roads during the time they are closed to vehicular traffic. The closure period must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to keep damage to adjacent resources to an acceptable level and perpetuate the road to facilitate future management activities. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are "prohibit" and "eliminate." Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic, but may be open and suitable for non-motorized uses (FSH 7709.58).

maintenance level 2 - Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either 1) discourage or prohibit passenger cars or 2) accept or discourage high clearance vehicles.

maintenance level 3 - Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed, single lane with turnouts and spot surfacing. Some roads may be fully surfaced with either native or processed materials. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either "encourage" or "accept". "Discourage" or "prohibit" strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users.

maintenance level 4 - Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated. The most appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage". However, the "prohibit" strategy may apply to specific classes of vehicles or users at certain times.

maintenance level 5 - Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. Normally, roads are double-lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated. The appropriate traffic management strategy is "encourage".

management action - Any activity undertaken as part of the administration of the National Forest.

management activity - Activity humans impose on a landscape for the purpose of managing natural resources.

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

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.

maximum modification VQO - Visual quality objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background (VMS).

MBF - Thousand Board Feet (see board feet.)

mean annual increment of growth - The total increase in size or volume of individual trees. Alternatively, 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.

mean annual precipitation - The average amount of rain and snow (expressed in inches) that falls on an area.

mean annual water yield - (See water yield.)

microclimate - 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.

microsites - Spots located on the north or east sides of stationary or transportable material which provide favorable conditions for tree growth by protecting the tree from sun, wind, animals, etc.

middleground - The zone between the foreground and the background in a landscape. The area located from ½ mile to 4 miles (VMS) or 5 miles (SMS) from the observer.

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

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

mission (of the USDA Forest Service) - "To Care for the Land and Serve the 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.

mitigation - 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 VQO - Visual quality objective which allows management activities to 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 (VMS).

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

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

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

National Park Service - The agency of the US Department of the Interior responsible for the administration of National Parks, Monuments, and Historic Sites. It is distinct from the USDA Forest Service both administratively and by mission.

natural barrier - A natural feature, such as a dense stand of trees or downfall, which will restrict animal travel.

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.

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. Section 102 of NEPA requires a statement of possible environmental effects to be released to the public and other agencies for review and comment.

neotropical migratory birds - Species that nest and raise young in North America and migrate to tropical areas in Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America in the winter.

nest survey - A way to estimate the size of a bird population by counting the number of nests in a given area.

new road construction - Activity that results in the addition of forest classified or temporary road miles (36 CFR 212.1).

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 the preparation of Regional Guides and Forest Plans.

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.

nonattainment areas - Those areas which do not meet national air quality standards.

noncommercial vegetative treatment - The removal of trees for reasons other than timber production.

nonconsumptive use - The use of a resource that does not reduce the supply. For instance, bird watching is a non-consumptive use of wildlife. Boating and fishing are non-consumptive uses of water.

nongame - Wildlife species that are not hunted for sport.

nonpoint source pollution - Pollution whose source is not specific in location. The sources of the discharge are dispersed, not well defined, or constant. Rainstorms and snowmelt 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 in the Federal Register of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposed action.

noxious weed - A plant that is extremely prolific, invasive, competitive, harmful, destructive, 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 instance, 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.

obliteration - See road reclamation.

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

100-year floodplain - A land surface feature found in a river or stream valley bottom that is composed of stream deposited materials and, on average, is inundated with flood waters once every 100 years.

organic soil - Soil at least partly derived from living matter, such as decayed plant material.

ORV - Off-road vehicles, such as motorcycles, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and 4-wheelers.

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).

overmature timber - Trees 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 - Of or belonging to the fossil record, either plant or animal, including fossils of large mammals belonging to the Late Quaternary geologic period which have previously been found in the general region. Paleontological resources are also nonrenewable.

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 VQO - Visual quality objective which in general means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape (VMS).

patch - An area of homogeneous vegetation, in structure and composition.

patch cut - A clear-cut that creates small openings in a stand of trees, usually between 15 and 40 acres in size. On the Dixie National Forest and elsewhere, 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.

- permitted grazing** - Grazing on a National Forest range allotment under the terms of a grazing permit.
- personal use** - The use of a forest product, such as firewood, for home use and not for commercial use.
- phloem** – Vascular plant tissue through which food is conducted from the leaves to the plant parts.
- planning area** - The area of National Forest System land covered by a Regional Guide or Forest Plan.
- planning period** - The 50 year time frame for which goods, services, and effects were projected in the development of the Forest Plan.
- 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** - Trees at least 5 inches in diameter, but smaller than the minimum size for sawtimber.
- PNV** - See present net value.
- precommercial thinning** - Removing some of the trees from a stand that are too small to be sold for lumber or house logs, so the remaining trees will grow faster.
- predator** - An animal that lives by preying on other animals. Predators are at or near the top of the food chain.
- pre-existing use** - Land use that may not conform to a zoning ordinance but existed prior to the enactment of the ordinance.
- prehistoric** - Relating to time prior to written record. However, during this time indigenous peoples in this region made a form of recording known as “rock art” or pictographs and petroglyphs. Because rock art has not been interpreted, it is not formally recognized as "written record".
- preparatory cut** - The removal of trees near the end of a rotation to open the canopy so the crowns of seed bearing trees can enlarge. This improves seed production and encourages natural regeneration. (See rotation).
- prescribed fire** - Fire set intentionally in wildland fuels under prescribed conditions and circumstances. Prescribed fire can rejuvenate forage for livestock and wildlife or prepare sites for natural regeneration of trees.
- prescription** - Management practices selected to accomplish specific land and resource management objectives.
- present net value (PNV), 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 than dollars in the future. PNV is used to compare project alternatives that have different cost and revenue flows.
- preservation VQO** - Visual quality objective which allows for ecological changes only in the landscape. This applies to wilderness and other special classified areas (VMS).
- presuppression** - Activities carried out in advance of fire occurrence to ensure effective suppression when the need arises.
- primitive ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum)** - A classification of wilderness and recreation opportunity 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; resources which are "manufactured" within the system (i.e. plant growth, animal reproduction, snags falling and becoming down woody material).

productive - The ability of an area to provide goods and services and to sustain ecological values.

public domain - The territory ceded to the Federal government by the original thirteen states, plus additions by treaty, cession, and purchase.

public land - Land for which title and control rests with a government---Federal, state, regional, county, or municipal.

public involvement - The use of appropriate procedures to inform the public, obtain early and continuing public participation, and consider the views of interested parties in planning and decision making.

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 - Land on which the principle natural plant cover is composed of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs that are valuable as forage for livestock and big game.

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 (Also called the historic range of variability or natural range of variation) - 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 cycle. 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.

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

recreation visitor - One who is in an area temporarily for refreshment of the body and mind. The visitor usually has a significant conscious or subconscious interest in the scenic qualities of an area.

recreation visitor days (RVD) - Twelve visitor hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

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

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

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

rehabilitation - Short-term management alternative used to return a landscape with existing visual impacts and deviations to a desired level of scenic quality formerly found in the natural landscape (VMS) (SMS).

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.

residual stand - The trees remaining standing after an event such as selection cutting.

resilience - The ability of an ecosystem to maintain diversity, integrity, and ecological processes following a disturbance.

restock - Means to reforest a unit or area with trees or shrubs.

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

restoration (of ecosystems) - Actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve a desired, healthy, and functioning condition.

retention VQO - Visual quality objective which provides for management activities which repeat form, line color and texture and are not visually evident within the characteristic landscape (VMS).

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

riparian area - The area 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.

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.

road decommissioning - Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state (36 CFR 212.1), (FSM 7703).

road reconstruction - Activity that results in improvement or realignment of an existing classified road as defined below:

road improvement - Activity that results in an increase of an existing road's traffic service level, expansion of its capacity, or a change in its original design function.

road realignment - Activity that results in a new location of an existing road or portions of an existing road and treatment of the old roadway (36 CFS 212.1).

roads subject to the Highway Safety Act - National Forest System roads that are open to use by the public for standard passenger cars. This includes roads with access restricted on a seasonal basis and roads closed during extreme weather conditions or for emergencies, but which are otherwise open for general public use.

rotation - The number of years required to establish and grow timber crops to a specified condition of maturity.

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

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.

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 young tree less than 4 inches in diameter at breast height.

sawtimber - Trees that are 8 inches in diameter at breast height or larger that can be made into lumber.

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

scenic attractiveness - Scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rockform, waterform, and vegetative pattern. It is classified as: A – Distinctive; B – Typical; and C – Indistinctive (SMS).

scenic integrity - State of naturalness or, conversely, the state of disturbance created by human activities or alteration, stated in degrees of deviation from the existing landscape character.

scenic class- System of classification describing the importance or value of a particular landscape or portions of that landscape (SMS).

scoping - The ongoing 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.

seedling - A tree grown from seed generally used for a young tree before it reaches the sapling stage.

seed tree harvest - Removal of the mature timber crop from an area in one cut, except for a certain number of seed bearers.

seen area - Total landscape area observed based on landform screening. May be divided into zones of immediate foreground, foreground, middleground, background and seldom seen. (VMS) (SMS)

sensitive species - Plant or animal species that are susceptible to habitat changes or impacts from activities. The official designation is made by the USDA Forest Service at the Regional level and is not part of the designation of Threatened or Endangered Species made by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

sensitivity level - A measurement of people's concern for scenic quality along travel routes and from points of interest. The three sensitivity levels are 1 – Highest; 2 – Average; and 3 – Lowest (VMS).

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.

severe fire - A severe fire is one that burns through the overstory and consumes large woody surface fuels, or removes the entire duff layer, or both, over much of the area. Heat from the fire impacts the upper soil layer and often consumes the incorporated soil organic matter.

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

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.

significant issue - Relate to a proposed action and must be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement (CEQ 1508.27).

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

single tree selection - See individual tree selection.

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.

site sensitivity area - Defined as high, moderate, or low based on the probability that they might contain cultural resources.

site-specific - Refers to designing an appropriate action on a case-by-case basis. Conditions on the ground are variable and a treatment is specifically designed based on the unique condition of the treatment site.

size class - One of the three intervals of tree stem diameters used to classify timber in the Forest Plan database. 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 travel when moving logs from the forest to a designated landing location.

skier days - Twelve skier hours, which one or more persons may aggregate continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously.

skyline (harvesting) - a cableway stretched tautly between two points, such as yarding towers and stump anchor, and used as a track for a block or skyline carriage.

slash - The 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 stems, branches, bark, etc. See logging residue, activity fuels, or timber stand improvement.

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

small game - Birds and small animals normally hunted or trapped.

snag - A standing dead tree. Snags are important as habitat for a variety of wildlife species and their prey.

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 in 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 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.

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.

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 (i.e. the maximum trees per acre for Engelmann spruce-subalpine fir stand is 670 and for ponderosa pine is 450).

stand structure - The horizontal and vertical distribution of components of a forest stand including the height, diameter, crown layers, and stems of trees, shrubs, herbaceous understory, snags, and down woody material.

Stand Visualization Simulator (SVS) - Generates graphic images depicting stand conditions represented by a list of individual stand components, e.g., trees, shrubs, and down material. The images produced by SVS, while abstract, provide a readily understood representation of stand conditions.

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

stewardship - Caring for the land and its resources to pass 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).

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, or mosaic, or total randomness of vegetation.

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

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.

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.

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

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.

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

Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs) - Refer to BMPs.

target - A National Forest's annual goals for accomplishment for natural resource programs. Targets represent the commitment 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.

temporary roads - 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 (36 CFS 212.1).

thermal cover - Cover used by animals against weather. For elk, thermal cover can be found in a stand of coniferous trees at least 40 feet tall with a crown closure of at least 70%.

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 as designated by the U.S. Fish and 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.

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

treatment area - The site-specific location of a resource improvement activity.

tree opening - An opening in the forest created by even-aged silvicultural practices.

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

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

unclassified roads - 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 termination of the authorization (36 CFR 212.1).

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.

undeveloped character - The sense a person gets of remoteness and isolation by the absence of human-caused impacts in roaded and unroaded areas.

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

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.

variety class - A method to classify landscapes according to their scenic quality. The three variety classes are A – Distinctive; B – Common; and C – Minimal (VMS).

vegetation management - 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.

vertical diversity - The diversity in a stand that results from the different layers or tiers of vegetation.

viable population - The number of individuals of a species sufficient necessary to ensure the long-term existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations, adequately distributed throughout its range.

virgin forest - A natural forest virtually uninfluenced by human activity.

visual management system (VMS) - Developed in 1974, the visual management system provides a framework to inventory visual resource and provide measurable standards for its management.

visual quality objective (VQO) - A combination of Landscape Character, Variety Class and Sensitivity Levels to determine the degree of acceptable resource alteration of the natural landscape. The five VQO's are P – Preservation; R – Retention; PR – Partial Retention; M – Modification; MM – Maximum Modification (VMS).

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

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 streamflow at that point.

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

water yield - The runoff from a watershed, including ground water outflow. Mean annual water yield is the amount of water that flows from the area and appears in streams expressed in area-inches. Two area-inches over 1 acre would equal 2 acre-inches.

weeding - A release treatment in stands not past the sapling stage that eliminates or suppresses undesirable vegetation regardless of crown position.

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. Congress designates wilderness areas.

wildfire - Any wildland fire that is not a prescribed fire.

wildlife habitat diversity - The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a specific area.

windthrow - Trees uprooted by wind.

wood fiber production - The growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of harvestable trees.

woodland products - Harvestable items from pinyon-juniper woodlands. These include fuelwood, posts, pine nuts, and Christmas trees.

yarding - Moving the cut trees from where they fell to a centralized place (landing) for hauling away from the stand.

Zone of Influence - The area influenced by Forest Service management activities.