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# GLOSSARY

## — A —

A designated area of land available for livestock grazing. Usually a grazing permit is issued designating a specified number and kind of livestock to be grazed according to directions found in an allotment management plan. It is the basic land unit used in the management of livestock on National Forest System lands and associated lands administered by the Forest Service.

ALLOTMENT

A document that specifies the actions to be taken on individual allotments to manage and protect the rangeland resources and reach the stated set of objectives. A long-term operating plan that is the implementing document for the decision made through the National Environmental Policy Act process and promotes progress toward desired future conditions.

ALLOTMENT  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
(AMP)

The degree of utilization considered desirable and attainable on various specific parts of an allotment considering the present resource condition, management objectives, and management level.<sup>1</sup>

ALLOWABLE USE

Considered to be one mature (1,000 pound) cow or the equivalent based upon average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds dry matter per day.<sup>2</sup>

ANIMAL UNIT (AU)

The amount of feed or forage required by an animal unit for one month. Not synonymous with Head Month.

ANIMAL UNIT MONTH  
(AUM)

See Trend.

APPARENT TREND

The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities, and the habitat features that occur therein.<sup>3</sup>

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEM

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<sup>1</sup>Definition from "A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management," Third Edition, Compiled and Edited by the Glossary Revision Committee, Publications Committee, Society for Range Management, Peter W. Jacoby, Chairman.

<sup>2</sup>FSH 2209.15

<sup>3</sup>FSM 2526.05.

— B —

- BARE GROUND** All land surface not covered by vegetation, rock, or litter.<sup>4</sup> See Ground Cover.
- BENCHMARK** A permanent reference point. In range inventory, it is used as a point where changes in vegetation through time are measured.<sup>5</sup>
- BROWSE** (n) The part(s) of shrubs, woody vines, and trees available for animal consumption. (v) To search for or consume browse.<sup>6</sup>

— C —

- CANOPY COVER** See Cover, Canopy.
- CAPABILITY** See Rangeland Capability.
- CARRYING CAPACITY** The average number of livestock and/or wildlife that may be sustained on a management unit compatible with management objectives for the unit. In addition to site characteristics, it is function of management goals and management intensity.<sup>7</sup> Synonymous with Grazing Capacity.
- CLASS OF LIVESTOCK** Age and/or sex group of a kind of livestock.
- CLASSIFICATION** The systematic arrangement of characteristics of objects into groups (taxa). The within group variation is less than the between group variation. Classification simplifies and stratifies complex systems.
- CLIMAX COMMUNITY** The final or stable biotic community in an ecological succession. It is self perpetuating and in equilibrium with the physical habitat and environment. The presumed end point in succession.
- CLOSURE, CROWN** The percentage of the ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of the foliage of plants.
- COMMUNITY** A general term for an assemblage of plants and/or animals living together and interacting among themselves in a specific location; no particular ecological status is inferred.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Definition from "New Directions in Range Condition Assessment -- Report to the Board of Directors, Society for Range Management," by the Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology," North Platte, Nebraska, July 1991.

<sup>5</sup>A glossary of terms used in Range Management.

<sup>6</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>7</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>8</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

An aggregation of all plant communities with similar structure and floristic composition. A unit of vegetation within a classification with no particular successional status inferred.<sup>9</sup> A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification referencing existing vegetation.

COMMUNITY TYPE

See Species Composition.

COMPOSITION

See Rangeland Condition.

CONDITION

The process whereby various user groups are involved in discussion of alternative resource uses and collectively diagnose management problems, establish goals and objectives, and evaluate multiple use resource management.<sup>10</sup>

COORDINATED RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT (CRM)

The percentage of ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage of plants. Small openings within the canopy are included. Total canopy cover may exceed 100 percent. Synonymous with Crown Cover.<sup>11</sup>

COVER, CANOPY

See Cover, Canopy.

COVER, CROWN

The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the soil surface. It may include organic material, such as vegetation basal cover (live and standing dead), mosses and lichens, and litter; and inorganic material, such as cobble, gravel, stones, and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground will total 100 percent.<sup>12</sup>

COVER, GROUND

The percentage of an area covered by the combined aerial parts of plants. The percent cover may be stratified by species or by aggregations of species, either within structural layers or by aggregations of plant taxa. Total cover within any strata or combination of strata may exceed 100 percent.

COVER, PERCENT

A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification referencing existing vegetation. Cover type is a broad taxon based on existing plant species that dominate, usually within the tallest layer.

COVER TYPE

<sup>9</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>10</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>11</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>12</sup>Adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

— D —

DENSITY	Number of individuals or stems per unit area. Density does not equate to any kind of cover measurement. <sup>13</sup>
DESIRED CONDITION — RANGELANDS	The specific condition of rangeland resources that meets management objectives as identified in the forest plan. Desired condition of rangelands is expressed in terms of ecological status of the vegetation, including species composition, diversity of habitats, and age classes of species; desired soil protection, including conditions of soil cover, erosion, compaction, and loss of soil productivity; in riparian areas, it includes conditions of streambank, channel stability, stream habitat, streamside vegetation, stream sedimentation, and water quality. <sup>14</sup>
DESIRED FUTURE VEGETATION	The composition and structural characteristics of the plant community on a site or an ecological unit which meets forest plan or other management objectives. <sup>15</sup>
DESIRED SOIL CONDITION	The soil condition which meets forest plan or other management objectives for maintaining soil quality, soil productivity potential, and hydrologic function. <sup>16</sup>
DETERIORATED RANGE	Rangeland where vegetation and soil conditions have significantly departed from the natural potential and desired resource values. Deteriorated range contains undesirable plant species and has diminished soil cover. Soil may be actively eroding or has eroded to the extent that production has fallen below acceptable minimums. Corrective management measures such as successful seeding would change the designation from deteriorated range.
DOMINANT	Plant species or species groups, which by means of their number, coverage, or size, have considerable influence or control upon the conditions of existence of associated species. <sup>17</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>14</sup>FSM 2210.5.

<sup>15</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>16</sup>FSH 2090.11

<sup>17</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

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— E —

The process of analyzing ecological data and defining hierarchical groups (taxa) based on that data. The components of an ecological classification include: potential natural community, soil, topographic features, water, climate, and geology. The purpose of an ecological classification is to provide a stratification for planning, implementing, and monitoring resource management activities. Related terms include Ecological Status, Ecological Type, and Ecological Unit.

**ECOLOGICAL  
CLASSIFICATION**

See Ecological Status.

**ECOLOGICAL CONDITION**

Tools that assist in recognizing and identifying ecological classification taxa on the ground. Keys can be developed for most ecological type components or combinations of components.

**ECOLOGICAL KEYS**

1. A specific location on the land that is representative of an ecological type.<sup>18</sup>

**ECOLOGICAL SITE**

The degree of similarity between the existing vegetation (all components and their characteristics) and existing soil conditions compared to the potential natural community and the desired soil condition on a site.<sup>19</sup> The present state of a map unit stated in terms of specific values or potentials with respect to species composition, ground cover, and soil characteristics. Ecological status is often evaluated on the basis of similarity indices between current conditions and the potential natural community.

**ECOLOGICAL STATUS**

Tool that is used to determine ecological status by comparing the degree of similarity between the existing vegetation and present soil conditions compared to the potential natural community and the desired soil condition on a site.

**ECOLOGICAL STATUS  
SCORECARD**

1. A category of land having a unique combination of potential natural community, soil, landscape features, climate, and differing from other ecological types in its ability to produce vegetation and respond to management. Lacking potential natural community vegetation, ecological types can be developed with a provisional potential natural community based upon the present plant community and abiotic environmental factors. Categories of ecological types include all sites that have this unique combination of components with the defined ranges of properties.<sup>20</sup>
2. Synonymous with Ecological Site as defined by the Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

**ECOLOGICAL TYPE**

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<sup>18</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>19</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>20</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

**ECOLOGICAL UNIT**

A mapped landscape unit designed to meet management objectives, comprised of one or more ecological types.<sup>21</sup> Some ecological unit descriptions may not specifically describe all individual ecological types that compose the unit. For example, a riparian ecological unit often includes a complex of small and intricately associated riparian ecological types. The Common Land Unit (polygons, lines, or points) in the Integrated Resource Inventory is a mapping of ecological units.

**ECOSYSTEM**

A complete interacting system of organisms and their environment.<sup>22</sup>

**ECOSYSTEM  
MANAGEMENT**

Ecosystem management means using an ecological approach to achieve the multiple-use management of national forests and grasslands by blending the needs of people and environmental values in such a way that national forests and grasslands represent diverse, healthy, productive, and sustainable ecosystems.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This does not include a species of the Class Insecta determined by the Secretary to be a pest whose protection under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to humans.<sup>23</sup>

**EROSION PAVEMENT**

A concentration of gravel or coarser fragments (1/8 inch to 3/4 inch) that remains on the soil surface after finer particles have been removed by running water or wind.

**— F —**

**FORAGE**

(n) Browse and herbage that is available and may provide food for grazing animals or be harvested for feeding. (v) To search for or consume forage.<sup>24</sup>

**FORB**

Any herbaceous plant other than those in the Poaceae (grass), Cyperaceae (sedge), and Juncaceae (rush) families.<sup>25</sup>

**FREQUENCY**

The ratio between the number of sample units that contain a species and the total number of sample units.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>21</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>22</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>23</sup>FSM 2670.5.

<sup>24</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>25</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>26</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

## — G —

A member of the family Poaceae (Gramineae).<sup>27</sup>

GRASS

A plant of the Cyperaceae (sedge) or Juncaceae (rush) families that vegetatively resembles a true grass of the Gramineae family.<sup>28</sup>

GRASS-LIKE PLANT

See Carrying Capacity.<sup>29</sup>

GRAZING CAPACITY

A specialization of grazing management that defines systematically recurring periods of grazing and deferment for two or more pastures or management units. Descriptive names such as Hormay or Savory may be used. Common grazing systems include intermittent grazing, deferred grazing, deferred-rotation grazing, and short-duration grazing.

GRAZING SYSTEM

The first perennial band of vegetation nearest the water's edge. Riparian areas that are in high seral status with stable stream banks will exhibit a continuous line of vegetation at the bankfull discharge level. Rocky stream types may have a significant amount of rock causing breaks in the vegetation; rock is considered part of the green line. Other breaks may occur in the first perennial band of vegetation. The amounts of all components should be recorded, for example, perennial vegetation, rock, bare ground, and other watercourses.

GREEN LINE

## — H —

A perennial plant with a woody base; the annually produced stems die each year.<sup>30</sup>

HALF-SHRUB

One month's use and occupancy of range by one weaned or adult animal cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, burro, mule, or five sheep or goats.

HEAD MONTH (HM)

Any vascular plant except those developing persistent woody stems above ground.<sup>31</sup>

HERB

The above-ground material of any herbaceous plant.<sup>32</sup>

HERBAGE

<sup>27</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>28</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>29</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>30</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>31</sup>Adapted from A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>32</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.



**INDICATOR SPECIES**

Species that indicate certain environmental conditions, seral stages, or treatments.

**INTEGRATED RESOURCE INVENTORY (IRI)**

Preparation of basic resource data for entry into a Geographic Information System (GIS). The end product is reliable, integrated resource information that is consistent across the Region.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM**

A group of individuals from different resource backgrounds assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team recognizes that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. Team members proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and the disciplines may combine to provide new solutions. This is different from a multi-disciplinary team where each specialist is assigned a portion of the problem and their partial solutions are linked together at the end to provide the final solution. Interdisciplinary teams are mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



**KEY AREA**

A portion of rangeland selected because of its location, grazing or browsing value, or use. It serves as a monitoring and evaluation point for range condition, trend, or degree of grazing use. Properly selected key areas reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the rangeland. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is a part.<sup>33</sup>

**KEY SPECIES**

1. Forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species.<sup>34</sup> In many cases, key species include indicator species, and species traditionally referenced as increasers, decreaseers, desirables, or intermediates.
2. Those species which must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>33</sup>Adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>34</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>35</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.



## — L —

Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the earth's surface having a characteristic shape and produced by natural causes.

LANDFORM

Uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface; essentially freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetative material.<sup>36</sup>

LITTER

See Allotment.

LIVESTOCK ALLOTMENT

## — M —

See Trend.

MEASURED TREND

The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.<sup>37</sup>

MONITORING

## — O —

A clear, quantifiable statement of planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. An objective is achievable, quantifiable, and explicit. The completion of an objective must occur within a stated time frame and the results must be documented.

OBJECTIVE

The upper canopy or canopies of plants. Usually refers to trees, tall shrubs, or vines.<sup>38</sup>

OVERSTORY

## — P —

The relative degree of attractiveness of a plant to animals as forage.

PALATABILITY

Plants that are growing on a hummock of soil as a result of water or wind erosion removing soil from the interspaces between plants. In some situations, this may also occur from frost heaving.

PEDESTALLED PLANTS

The percentage of current year's forage production that is consumed or impacted by grazing animals. May refer to a single species or to a plant community.

PERCENT USE

<sup>36</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>37</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>38</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

PHENOLOGY	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A branch of science dealing with relations between climate and periodic biological phenomena such as flowering, germination, and growth patterns.</li><li>2. Periodic biological phenomena that are correlated with climatic conditions.</li></ol>
PHOTO POINT	A permanently identified point from which photographs are taken at periodic intervals. Sometimes called a camera point. <sup>39</sup>
PHYSIOGNOMY	Vegetation classified according to shape and structure irrespective of the species included.
PLANT ASSOCIATION	A potential natural plant community of definite floristic composition and uniform appearance, <sup>40</sup> represented by stands occurring in places with similar environments. <sup>41</sup> A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification.
PLANT COMMUNITY	An assemblage of plants living and interacting together in a specific location. No particular ecological status is inferred. <sup>42</sup> Plant communities may include exotic or cultivated species.
PLANT COMMUNITY TYPE	See Community Type. <sup>43</sup>
PLANT VIGOR	Plant health. See Vigor.
PLOT	A sampling of an ecosystem or of a site.
POINT	A map feature described by a single set of coordinates.
POTENTIAL NATURAL COMMUNITY (PNC)	<p>A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification. The biotic community that would be established under present environmental conditions if all successional sequences were completed without additional human-caused disturbance. Natural disturbances, such as drought, flood, wildfire, grazing by native fauna, insect, and disease, are inherent in the development of potential natural communities that may include naturalized, non-native species.<sup>44</sup></p> <p>See Potential Natural Vegetation.<sup>45</sup></p>

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<sup>39</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>40</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>41</sup>Adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>42</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook. Also adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>43</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>44</sup>Adapted from FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>45</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

A historic term originally defined by A. W. Küchler as the stable vegetation community that could occupy a site under current climatic conditions without further influence by man. Often used interchangeably with Potential Natural Community.<sup>46</sup>

POTENTIAL NATURAL  
VEGETATION (PNV)

The relative degree to which kinds, proportions, and amounts of vegetation in the present plant community resemble the desired plant community chosen for an ecological site.<sup>47</sup>

PRESENT VEGETATION  
STATUS

The limiting factor(s) that will be measured on a particular site; for example, percent forage utilization, residual forage, other resource or use impacts, or any measurable site factors.

PROPER USE CRITERIA

## — R —

All land producing, or capable of producing, native forage for grazing and browsing animals, and lands that have been revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation. It includes all grasslands, forblands, shrublands, and those forested lands which can — continually or periodically, naturally or through management — support an understory of herbaceous or shrubby vegetation that provides forage for grazing or browsing animals.

RANGELAND

Systematic acquisition and evaluation of rangeland resources data needed for allotment management planning and overall land management.

RANGELAND ANALYSIS

Capable rangeland is accessible and used by domestic livestock, has inherent forage producing capabilities, and can be grazed on a sustained yield basis without damage under reasonable management goals. Non-capable rangeland has no current grazing value for domestic livestock or should not be used for grazing because of physical or biological restrictions, or lacks improvements that would allow use. The identification of non-capable range must specify the use(s) it is not capable of providing, for example, non-capable cattle range.

RANGELAND CAPABILITY

<sup>46</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>47</sup>FSM 2210.5.

<b>RANGELAND CONDITION</b>	Is present state of rangelands expressed in terms of ecological status of the vegetation, including species composition, diversity of habitats, and age classes of species; desired soil properties, including conditions of soil cover, erosion, compaction, and loss of soil productivity; in riparian areas it includes conditions of streambank and channel stability, stream habitat, streamside vegetation, stream sedimentation, and water quality.
<b>REFERENCE SITE</b>	A site permanently established and sampled to provide a standard baseline which can be used for the study of natural ecosystems and to evaluate and extrapolate the effects of management activities. <sup>48</sup>
<b>RELICT (RELIC) AREA</b>	A remnant or fragment of a flora that remains from a former period when it was more widely distributed. <sup>49</sup>
<b>RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA)</b>	An area in which natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible, ordinarily by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention. Under unusual circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the unique feature the RNA was established to protect. <sup>50</sup>
<b>RESOURCE VALUE</b>	The value of an ecosystem for a particular use or benefit on an ecological type. This value may be expressed as the actual amount or as a relative rating, when compared to the maximum value for an ecological type. <sup>51</sup>
<b>RESOURCE VALUE RATING (RVR)</b>	The value of a particular resource within a plant community for a particular use or benefit. Resource value ratings may be established for each plant community within an ecological type. <sup>52</sup>
<b>RESOURCE VALUE RATING-LIVESTOCK FORAGE</b>	The degree of similarity between the present plant community and the plant community which could prevail on a site under existing environmental conditions and produces the maximum desirable forage for a given kinds of livestock. <sup>53</sup>
<b>RESOURCE VALUES-SOILS</b>	The values of soil to produce vegetation and maintain its production potential and hydrologic function. <sup>54</sup>
<b>RESOURCE VALUES-VEGETATION</b>	The values of the plant community for particular uses or benefits on a site. <sup>55</sup>

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<sup>48</sup>FSH 2090.11

<sup>49</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>50</sup>FSM 4063.05.

<sup>51</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>52</sup>Adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>53</sup>FSM 2210.5.

<sup>54</sup>FSH 2090.11.

<sup>55</sup>FSH 2090.11.

An ecological unit that supports or may potentially support a specified pattern of riparian ecosystems, soils, landforms, and hydrologic characteristics.

RIPARIAN AREA

Geographically delineable area with distinctive resource values and characteristics that are comprised of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems.<sup>56</sup>

RIPARIAN COMPLEX

A transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem; identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.<sup>57</sup> Riparian ecosystems often occupy distinctive landforms, such as flood plains or alluvial benches.

RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEM

The number of times a species occurs in a given number of plots.

ROOTED NESTED  
FREQUENCY

— S —

A condition in which the soil is adequately protected and the forage species composition and production meets forest plan objectives or the trend in forage species composition and production is acceptable.

SATISFACTORY LIVESTOCK  
FORAGE CONDITION

An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying significant issues related to a proposed action.

SCOPING PROCESS

The grazing of certain plant species on the range to the exclusion of others.

SELECTIVE GRAZING

Those plants and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern,<sup>58</sup> as evidenced by:

SENSITIVE SPECIES

- a. significant current or predicted downward trend in population numbers or density, or
- b. significant current or predicted downward trend in habitat capability that will reduce a species' existing distribution.

Any community that is not at potential.<sup>59</sup> A relatively transitory community that develops under ecological succession, toward or away from a potential natural community.<sup>60</sup>

SERAL COMMUNITY

<sup>56</sup>FSM 2526.05.

<sup>57</sup>FSM 2526.05.

<sup>58</sup>FSM 2070.5.

<sup>59</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<b>SERAL STAGE</b>	Successional plant communities are often classified into quantitative seral stages to depict the relative position on a classical successional pathway. See Seral Community.
<b>SERIES, PLANT</b>	A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification that references potential vegetation. An aggregation of potential natural communities or plant associations that share the same dominant species.
<b>SERIES, SOIL</b>	The basic units of soil classification being a subdivision of a family and consisting of soils that are essentially alike in all major profile characteristics except the texture of the A horizon.
<b>SHRUB</b>	A plant with persistent, woody stems, relatively low growth habit, and generally several basal shoots instead of a single bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature and non arborescent form. <sup>61</sup>
<b>SIMILARITY</b>	A comparison of existing vegetation and soil conditions to either potential natural community or desired plant community.
<b>SITE</b>	A single, specific point on the land. <sup>62</sup> The sample point where data measurements are taken.
<b>SPECIES COMPOSITION</b>	The proportion of plant species or aggregations of species in relation to a total area. It may be expressed in terms of canopy cover, frequency, or weight. <sup>63</sup>
<b>STAND</b>	An uninterrupted unit of vegetation, homogeneous in composition and of the same age. The vegetation can be of any physiognomic class.
<b>SUCCESSION</b>	The process of vegetative and ecological development whereby an area becomes successively occupied by different plant communities.

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<sup>60</sup>Adapted From Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>61</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>62</sup>FSH 2090.11, Ecological Classification and Inventory Handbook.

<sup>63</sup>Adapted from Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

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— T —

Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that the appropriate Secretary has designated as a threatened species. (Some States also have declared certain species as threatened through their regulations or statutes.)<sup>64</sup>

**THREATENED SPECIES**

A linear plot, usually represented by a line, along which are often placed regularly spaced quadrats (plot frames), loops, or other devices.

**TRANSECT**

The direction of change in an attribute as observed over time.<sup>65</sup>

**TREND**

- a. Apparent trend is an interpretation of trend based on observations and professional judgment at a single point in time.<sup>66</sup> Trend estimates can be validated or rejected only through additional observations or measurements over time. Apparent trend is described in the same terms as measured trend. Additionally, when no trend is apparent it is described as "not apparent."
- b. Measured trend is quantitative changes in vegetative or soil conditions over time, which can be measured in terms of plant communities or resource value ratings. Trend is described as "toward" or "away from" the desired plant community, or as "static." Trends for different resource values may not be consistent; it is not necessary to correlate resource value and plant community trends on the same site.

— U —

The available forage by weight consumed or trampled through livestock grazing. Usually expressed as a percent.

**UTILIZATION**

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<sup>64</sup>FSM 2670.5.

<sup>65</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

<sup>66</sup>Task Group on Unity in Concepts and Terminology.

— V —

VEGETATION  
CLASSIFICATION

The process of analyzing vegetation community data and defining hierarchical entities based on that data. There are two branches of vegetation classification: potential natural and existing. The potential natural vegetation classification hierarchy includes series, subseries, plant associations, and plant association phases. The existing vegetation classification hierarchy includes cover types and community types.

VIGOR

The relative robustness of a plant in comparison to other individuals of the same species. It is reflected primarily by the size of a plant and its parts in relation to its age and the environment in which it is growing.<sup>67</sup>

— W —

WETLANDS

Those areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do or would support, a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>67</sup>A Glossary of Terms Used in Range Management.

<sup>68</sup>FSM 2527.05.