

Chapter V

Glossary and Acronyms

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Changes to Chapter V Since 2006

None.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The variety of technical terms and inevitable acronyms used in the planning process can make for confusing reading. The following collection of definitions and acronyms is an attempt to clarify some of the terminology used in the Forest Plan Revision process. We hope that this glossary will help people navigate through the language of Forest Planning. The terms that are defined are in alphabetical order.

[A]

ABIOTIC – Non-living (refers to air, rocks, soil particles, and etcetera).

ACID DEPOSITION – Acid deposition occurs when acidic particles, gases, and precipitation leave the atmosphere and settle on land. Acid deposition has two components: wet (commonly know as acid rain) and dry deposition.

ACQUISITION – Obtaining land through purchase, exchange, or donation.

ACTIVITY AREA – An area impacted by a land management activity, excluding specified transportation facilities, dedicated trails, and system roads. Activity areas include such areas as harvest units within timber sales and prescribed burn units. Riparian and other environmentally sensitive areas may be monitored and evaluated as activity areas within larger management areas.

AGE CLASS – An interval into which the age range of tree stands is divided for classification. For Forest Plan revision, we have commonly used three (young, mature, or old development stages) or five (early, early-mid, mid, mid-late, and late successional stages) age classes.

ALLOWABLE SALE QUANTITY (ASQ) - The amount of chargeable timber volume that can be sold from a Forest cannot exceed the Allowable Sale Quantity established for the Plan area. Each Forest Plan must establish an ASQ (10.5 mmcf or 63 mmbf). The quantity is a ceiling rather than a future sales level projection or target, and it does not reflect all of the factors that may influence future sale levels.

ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV) - An engine-driven device which has a net weight of 650 pounds or less, and a width of 48 inches or less, which is equipped with a seat that is straddled by the operator, and is designed to travel on 3 or more low-pressure tires.

ALTERNATIVE - A set of possible management solutions to a collection of resource or management issues. A range of alternatives, which address the management issues to varying degrees, are identified and evaluated for their effects on people and the environment.

ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION (AMS) - Using resource assessments and the 1986 Forest Plan as background, the AMS documents existing Forest Plan direction for a particular resource concern; speculates on the expected results should the existing direction continue; evaluates the kinds of problems that may occur should the existing direction continue; discusses whether or not these problems need to be resolved, and determines the potential to resolve them in plan revision.

[B]

BACHELOR COLONY (As applied to Virginia big-eared bats) – A group of male Virginia big-eared bats that day-roost together during the spring and summer months, generally in a cave or mine. The term

is also used to describe the cave or mine used for such roosting, including the surface entrance(s) and subterranean passages.

BASAL AREA – A measure of the density of trees in an area. It is determined by estimating the total cross-sectional area of all trees measured at breast height (4.5 feet) expressed in square feet per acre.

BASE CATIONS – Positively charged ions such as magnesium, sodium, calcium, and potassium that are released when water flows over rocks and through the soil. The release of base cations increases the pH of water. Base cations provide essential nutrients for plants, and they buffer soil and water from the acidity that comes from sulfates and nitrates deposited by air pollution.

BASE CATION DEPLETION – The loss of base cations occurs naturally through weathering of rocks and soil formation. However, the loss of base cations can be increased due to acid deposition, soil disturbance, and subsequent leaching. This accelerated loss may affect forest productivity.

BIN-WALL – A series of connected bins, generally filled with earth or gravel, that serves as a retaining wall, abutment, pier, or as protection against explosions or gunfire.

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (BA) – Information prepared by a federal agency to determine whether a proposed action is likely to: 1) adversely affect listed (threatened, endangered, or proposed) species, 2) jeopardize the continued existence of species, or 3) adversely modify critical habitat. BAs must be prepared for “major construction activities”. The outcome of the BA determines whether formal consultation or a conference with the US Fish and Wildlife Service is necessary.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY - The variety of life forms and processes within an area. Included in the consideration of biodiversity are the complexities of genetic variation, number and distribution of species, and the ways in which the variety of biologic communities interact and function.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION (BE) – A documented review of Forest Service programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species, particularly whether the action may result in a trend toward federal listing.

BIOLOGICAL OPINION (BO) – An official report by the US Fish and Wildlife Service issued in response to a formal Forest Service request for consultation or conference. It states whether an action is likely to result in jeopardy to a species or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

BOARD FOOT – A volume of solid wood, equivalent to a piece one-foot square and one inch thick. An MBF equals one thousand board feet, and an MMBF equals one million board feet.

BORROW – In highway construction, materials used in the roadbed that are excavated from native materials in ground generally close to the road bed; the term “borrow” implies the excavation, hauling and spreading of the material from designated pits.

BORROW PIT – An excavation made for the purpose of obtaining earth, rock, or other fill material for use in construction.

BOTANICAL AREAS – Areas that contain specimens or groups of plants in plant communities that are significant because of their form, color, occurrence, habitat, location, life history, arrangement, ecology, environment, and/or variety.

BUFFER – A strip of vegetation that is left unmanaged or is managed to reduce the impact that a treatment or action on the area would have on an adjacent area. For example, channel buffers are zones around stream channels that are designed to protect the stream from specific effects, such as excess sedimentation, loss of large woody debris, or temperature extremes.

[C]

CANDIDATE RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (CRNA) - An area that has the potential for designation as a Research Natural Area; but needs formal evaluation. Given that a CRNA meets the criteria, it must then be nominated to Congress in order to be considered for RNA designation.

CANOPY – The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees and other woody growth.

CLEARCUTTING – The harvesting of all trees in one cut in an area for the purpose of creating a new, even-aged stand. This harvest method has generally been replaced by Clearcut with Reserve Trees, which leaves some trees in the harvest unit to provide for wildlife habitat and other resource benefits.

COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND - Forest land that is producing, or is capable of producing, crops of industrial wood, and:

1. Has not been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service;
2. Existing technology and knowledge is available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soils productivity, or watershed conditions; and
3. Existing technology and knowledge, as reflected in current research and experience, provides reasonable assurance that adequate restocking can be attained within 5 years after final harvesting.

COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVEST – Any type of timber sale that produces merchantable wood products where the value of the product(s) usually is equal to or exceeds the direct cost of harvesting.

COMPACTION - Increased soil density (weight per unit volume) and strength that hampers root growth, reduces soil aeration, and inhibits soil water movement. Measurements pertain to the critical surface layers that typically contain a high proportion of the soil's organic matter and nutrients and or strongly affect water retention and movement in the soil.

CONGRESSIONALLY DESIGNATED WILDERNESS - An area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, so as to preserve its natural conditions and which:

1. Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
2. Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
3. Has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and

4. May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

CONIFER – Any of a wide range of predominantly evergreen, cone-bearing trees with needle-shaped or scale-like leaves, such as pine, spruce, or hemlock.

CONNECTIVITY - Condition in which the spatial arrangement of land cover types allows organisms and ecological processes (such as disturbance) to move across the landscape. Used in this sense, connectivity is the opposite of fragmentation.

CORPORATE DATABASE – A set of repositories designed for the electronic storage of shared information within a managed environment.

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING (for Soil Protection): Planting trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and legumes on eroding areas or areas subject to accelerated erosion where mineral soil is exposed.

CRITICAL HABITAT – The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographic area occupied by a species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the ESA, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

CRITICAL LIFE STAGES – Critical life stages are portions of an animal's life cycle that: 1) are important to its reproductive success, or 2) involve higher than average risk of mortality or harassment for individuals or a concentrated segment of a population. Critical life stages include, but are not necessarily limited to, courtship, breeding, nesting, spawning, brood-rearing, denning, and hibernation.

CROSS-COUNTRY OHV USE - This refers to the use of OHVs off of established trails, roads or routes.

CULL or CULL TREE – A tree or log that is not merchantable due to poor form, rot, or other defect.

CULTURAL RESOURCES – See Heritage Resources.

[D]

DBH – Diameter at breast height (4.5 feet).

DECISION CRITERIA - The primary rules or standards for evaluating alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION - A portrayal of the land and resource conditions that is expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

DETRIMENTAL SOIL DISTURBANCE – The act of damaging soil or adversely affecting soil productivity through (for example) displacement, compaction, puddling, or burning.

DEVELOPED RECREATION – Recreation that requires facilities that in turn result in concentrated use of an area; for example, a campground or ski resort.

DISPERSED RECREATION – Recreation that does not occur in developed areas. Dispersed recreation is typically associated with low-density use distributed over large expanses of land.

DISPLACEMENT - Excessive mechanical relocation or removal of the surface mineral and/or organic soil layers sufficient to reduce long-term productivity and biodiversity of soil dependent flora and fauna. Mixing of mineral and organic soil materials is not considered detrimental displacement. However, its effects must be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

[E]

ECOLOGICAL LANDTYPE (ELT) – An area of land with a distinct combination of natural, physical, chemical, and biological properties that cause it to respond in a predictable and relatively uniform manner to the application of given management practices. In a relatively undisturbed state and/or at a given stage of plant succession, an ELT is usually occupied by a predictable and relatively uniform plant community. Typical size usually is tens to hundreds of acres.

ECOSYSTEM - A community of living plants and animals interacting with each other and with their physical environment. A geographic area where it is meaningful to address the interrelationships with human social systems, sources of energy, and the ecological processes that shape change over time.

ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION - The process of re-establishing, to the extent possible, the structure, function, and composition of ecosystems.

ECOTONE – A transitional area between two communities that contains species from each community and some species that only live within the ecotone area.

ENDANGERED SPECIES – Species listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as being nationally endangered.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT (ESA), AS AMENDED – An act passed by Congress in 1973 to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved, and to provide a program for conservation of such species.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS – The process associated with the preparation of an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. It is an analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short-term and long-term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, and social factors and their interactions.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) – A concise public document that serves to: 1) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (finding of no significant impact), and 2) aid in agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when no environmental impact statement is necessary.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT – Net change (negative or positive) in the physical, biological, social, or economic components of the environment resulting from human actions or natural disturbance. Effects and impacts as used in the EA are relatively synonymous, although "impacts" generally has a negative connotation.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) – This is the most rigorous level of environmental analysis, and typically provides several alternatives and analyzes the environmental consequences of each. An EIS is required by the NEPA for actions with a "significant impact on the human environment."

EPHEMERAL STREAM CHANNEL – Any stream channel that exhibits scouring of mineral soil. Though not a true riparian area, ephemeral channels provide hydrological connection to intermittent and perennial streams.

EROSION – The movement of soil from where it was formed. Rills, gullies, pedestals, and soil deposition are indicators of accelerated surface soil erosion. Accelerated erosion related to management activities can be prevented or minimized by controlling the amount, location, and duration of mineral soil exposure, thus avoiding concentrations of runoff and ensuring adequate revegetation. The distinction between a gully and a rill is one of depth. A gully is a consequence of water that cuts down into the soil along the line of flow. It is an obstacle to wheeled vehicles and is too deep to be obliterated by ordinary tillage. Rill erosion is the removal of soil through the cutting of many small, but conspicuous, channels where runoff concentrates. Rills are shallow enough that they are easily obliterated by tillage. Sheet erosion is subtler but can result in pedestals and obvious soil deposition when it is more severe. It is characterized by the more or less uniform removal of soil from an area without the development of conspicuous water channels (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service 1996).

EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT - The application of a combination of actions that results in the creation of stands in which trees of essentially the same age grow together. Regeneration in a particular stand is obtained during a short period at or near the time that a stand has reached the desired age or size for regeneration, and is harvested.

[F]

FOREST PLAN - The Forest Land and Resource Management Plan is a document that guides natural resource management activity and establishes management desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines for a National Forest, embodying the provisions of the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT – Formal alteration of the Forest Plan by modification, deletion or additional changes of management direction. An amendment addresses only the issues that trigger a need for change. Amendments must satisfy both NFMA and NEPA procedural requirements including appropriate public notification.

FOREST PLAN REVISION - A formal modification of an existing Forest Plan to address changes in the natural, social and economic environment, new information about resources on and off National Forests, and new scientific knowledge that sheds new light on the assumptions of the existing Plan, and make the predicted impacts of the existing Plan less accurate and/or acceptable. The 1982 federal planning regulations require the Forest Service to revise a Forest Plan every 10-15 years.

FOREST ROAD OR TRAIL – A road or trail wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Services determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

FOREST TRANSPORTATION ATLAS – A display of the system of roads, trails, and airfields of an administrative unit, in this case the Monongahela National Forest.

FOREST TYPE – A natural group or association of different species of trees that commonly occur together over a large area. Forest types are defined and named after one or more dominant species of trees, such as the spruce-fire and the birch-beech-maple types.

FORMAL CONSULTATION – A process between US Fish and Wildlife Service and a federal agency that: 1) determines whether a proposed federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat; 2) begins with a federal agency's written request and submittal of a complete initiation package; and 3) concludes with the issuance of a biological opinion and, if needed, incidental take statement.

FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE (4WD) - A full-sized vehicle with four-wheel drive, which is registered with the state, and legal to operate on public highways. Any Sport Utility Vehicle would fall in this class, although a 4WD may be a modified vehicle intended primarily for off-highway use.

FRAGMENTATION – The breaking up of contiguous areas into progressively smaller patches with increasing degrees of isolation from each other. This term usually applies to wildlife or fish habitat.

[G]

GENERAL FOREST AREA (New term for dispersed recreation) – Describes areas where recreation occurs outside of developed areas. Dispersed recreation is typically associated with low-density use distributed over large expanses of land.

GOAL - A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and is timeless in that it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the principle basis from which objectives are developed.

GROUND COVER - Effective ground cover can include low-growing plants, lichens and mosses, rock, litter, and duff. The amount of effective ground cover needed to prevent erosion varies by precipitation regime, slope, and soil texture. Lack of adequate effective ground cover usually results in accelerated surface erosion.

GROUP SELECTION – The removal of small groups of trees to meet a predetermined goal of size, distribution, and species. Group selection cuts are typically 3 acres or less in size.

GUIDELINE - A preferred or advisable course of action generally expected to be carried out. Guidelines can also describe limitations on management actions, but they are generally not as restrictive as standards. Guidelines often indicate measures that should be taken to help maintain or restore resource conditions, or prevent resource degradation. Deviation from compliance does not require a Forest Plan amendment, but rationale for deviation is required in the project record or NEPA documentation for a signed decision.

[H]

HABITAT - The environment in which an organism (plant or animal) lives.

HARVEST METHOD – A cutting method by which a stand of trees is logged. Emphasis is on meeting logging and resource management requirements while concurrently attaining silvicultural objectives.

HEADWALLS – A wall of any material at the end of a culvert or drain to serve one or more of the following purposes: protect fill from scour or undermining; increase hydraulic efficiency; divert direction of flow, or serve as a retaining wall.

HERITAGE RESOURCES - Resources that provide physical evidence of past human presence or behavior relating to the disciplines of archeology, architecture, ethnology, and history. Also referred to as cultural resources.

HIBERNACULUM (plural: HIBERNACULA) – A cave or mine in which bats hibernate, including the surface entrance(s) and subterranean passages.

[I]

INCIDENTAL TAKE – Take of ESA-listed fish or wildlife species that results from, but is not the purpose of, carrying out an otherwise lawful activity conducted by a federal agency or applicant.

INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT – The document that recognizes the circumstances of and level of incidental take, the reasonable and prudent measures required to further minimize the level of incidental take, and the terms and conditions the Forest must comply with to implement the reasonable and prudent measures.

INFORMAL CONSULTATION – An optional process that includes all discussions and correspondence between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and a federal agency prior to formal consultation, to determine whether a proposed federal action may affect listed species or critical habitat. This process allows the federal agency to utilize the US Fish and Wildlife Service's expertise to evaluate the agency's assessment of potential effects or to suggest possible modifications to the proposed action that could avoid potentially adverse effects.

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM (IDT) – A group of individuals with skills from different resources. An IDT is assembled because no single scientific discipline is sufficient to adequately identify and resolve issues and concerns. Team interaction provides necessary insight to all stages of the process.

INTERIOR FOREST - An area of late successional or old forest that is large enough, and of an appropriate shape to provide conditions that minimize predation, parasitism, and microclimate fluctuations associated with forest edges. These interior forest conditions provide critical habitat for a diversity of wildlife and plant species.

[K]

KEY AREA (for Indiana bat) – A key area is an area of mature or old forest near an Indiana bat hibernaculum that is established and managed to provide high-quality, undisturbed roosting and foraging habitat. A key area is at least 150 acres in size and is located as close to the hibernaculum entrance as possible. To the extent allowed by existing forest stands, a key area includes at least 20 acres of late successional forest (> 120 years old) and another 130 acres of mid-late (80–120 years old) or late successional forest.

[L]

LAND ALLOCATION – The commitment of a given area and its resources to the compatible combination of goods, services, and uses specified by a regional management goal or by a past management prescription.

LAND TYPE ASSOCIATION (LTA) - One of the most basic ecological units for Forest-wide planning; it describes areas of common ecosystem characteristics and generally (but not always)

numbering in the thousands of acres. LTAs are defined by similarities in general topography, geomorphic process, geology, soil and potential plant community patterns. This level of the Ecological Classification System is smaller than ecological subsections and larger than ecological land types with typical size in the tens or hundreds of thousands of acres.

LANDSCAPE PATTERN - The spatial arrangement of forest patches composed of different species or successional stages. The term may also be applied to patches of different land uses, such as residential, commercial, or agricultural. A landscape is a heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystems that is repeated in similar form throughout.

[M]

MANAGEMENT INDICATOR SPECIES (MIS) - Species selected for monitoring because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities on habitats.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS (MP) – Regulations (36 CFR 219.3) define MPs as, “Management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives.” MPs are created by zoning the Forest into smaller units to provide more effective and efficient management organized around a common emphasis, such as timber management, wildlife habitat, or backcountry recreation. See also the Introduction to Chapter III of the Forest Plan.

MASS MOVEMENT - Soil mass movement (slumps, debris flows, etc.) accelerated above natural background levels or initiated by management activities.

MATERNITY COLONY (for Indiana bats) – A group of female Indiana bats that day-roost together during the spring and summer maternity season, generally in one or more snags or living trees. Young are born and reared while the female bats are gathered in a maternity colony.

MATERNITY COLONY (for Virginia big-eared bats) – A group of female Virginia big-eared bats that day-roost together during the spring and summer maternity season, generally in a cave or mine. Young are born and reared while the female bats are gathered in a maternity colony. The term is also used to describe the cave or mine used for maternity roosting, including the surface entrance(s) and subterranean passages.

MATERNITY SITE (for Indiana bats) – The area of land containing all of the day roosts used by a maternity colony of Indiana bats.

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

MULCHING - Mulching consists of the application of materials such as hay, straw, wood chips, paper, shredded bark or other approved material (approved by the soil scientist) to the soil surface to conserve moisture, prevent surface compaction or crusting, control weeds, and help protect the site from erosion.

MUNICIPAL WATERSHED – Watersheds in which the primary resource emphasis is in the water supply function of the land. For the purposes of Forest planning, municipal watersheds include those from which municipal water supplies are derived, having a size of 5,000 acres or less as measured from the point of intake, and in which National Forest System ownership is 50 percent or more.

[N]

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) of 1969 - An act requiring that an analysis be made of the nature and significance of a proposed action and its reasonable alternatives in order to determine and evaluate their predictable environmental effects, including physical, biological, economic, and social consequences and their interactions; short and long term effects; and direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. Such an analysis may result in preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement or finding that the action can be categorically excluded from the need to prepare either document.

NATIONAL FOREST MANAGEMENT ACT (NFMA) of 1976 - The act requiring comprehensive planning at both Regional and Forest levels. It sets forth regulations and procedures for planning the management of national forests.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROAD – A forest road other than a road that has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a state, county, or other local public road authority.

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM TRAIL – A forest trail other than a road that has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a state, county, or other local public road authority.

NATIONAL SCENIC & RECREATION TRAILS – Trails designated by Congress for their high scenic or recreational values.

NEED FOR CHANGE (NFC) – A document that describes the process forest managers use to identify specific changes that are needed in Forest Plan Revision to accomplish goals and objectives.

NO ACTION (ALTERNATIVE) – The most likely condition expected to exist if current management practices continue unchanged. The analysis of this alternative is required for federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act.

NON-ATTAINMENT AREA – EPA has identified six air pollutants that are a concern in terms of human health; these pollutants are called criteria pollutants. EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for each criteria pollutant. Ambient air concentrations of each criteria pollutant cannot exceed these standards. Areas where the monitoring data shows an exceedence of the NAAQS are designated as non-attainment for the criteria pollutant(s) not meeting the standard. Additionally, any adjacent area that contributes to ambient air quality in the area not meeting the NAAQS is included in the non-attainment area.

NON-COMMERCIAL HARVEST – Harvest associated with vegetative management that does not result in the removal or sale of timber products.

NON-NATIVE INVASIVE SPECIES – A species that did not originate in the location it is living and has no natural predators or disease to keep it in check. As a result, it can out-compete other species for space, food, and water, negatively affecting native populations of species.

NOTICE OF INTENT (NOI) - A formal statement by the Forest Service informing the public of the intent to revise the existing Land and Resource Management Plans. The Notice of Intent is published in the Federal Register.

[O]

OBJECTIVE - A concise, time-specific statement of actions or results designed to help achieve goals. Objectives form the basis for project-level actions or proposals to help achieve Forest goals. Like goals, objectives are designed to maintain conditions if they are currently within their desired range, or move conditions toward their desired range if they are currently outside that range. The timeframe for accomplishing objectives, unless otherwise stated, is generally considered to be the planning period, or the next 10 to 15 years. More specific dates are not typically used because accomplishment can be delayed by funding, litigation, environmental changes, and other influences beyond the Forest's control.

OCCUPIED HABITAT – An area where a species is known to exist through positive identification, as through capture or well-documented observations.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) – Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, wetland, or other natural terrain. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATV), motorcycles, amphibious machines, snowmobiles, hovercraft, and any other vehicles that use mechanical power, including 2 and 4-wheel drive (4WD) vehicles that are highway registered, when operated off highways and roads. OHVs are also known as off-road vehicles (ORVs).

OLD GROWTH FOREST - A community with dominant trees at or past biological maturity. The age and structure of an old-growth community varies with species and site. Old growth stands are sometimes characterized by a multi-layered, uneven-aged size class structure; a high degree of compositional and structural patchiness and heterogeneity; and significant amounts of woody debris. See also Appendix B to the Forest Plan.

OPTIMUM METHOD (Clearcutting) – Clearcutting as the “optimum method” is defined in attachment 2 to the June 4, 1992 letter from the Chief of the FS, which states “Clearcutting would be limited to areas where it is essential to meet forest plan objectives and involve one or more of the following circumstances:

1. To establish, enhance, or maintain habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.
2. To enhance wildlife habitat or water yield values, or to provide for recreation, scenic vistas, utility lines, road corridors, facility sites, reservoirs, or similar development.
3. To rehabilitate lands adversely impacted by events such as fires, windstorms, or insect or disease infestations.
4. To preclude or minimize the occurrence of potentially adverse impacts of insect or disease infestations, wind throw, logging damage, or other factors affecting forest health.
5. To provide for the establishment and growth of desired trees or other vegetative species that are shade intolerant.
6. To rehabilitate poorly stocked stands due to past management practices or natural events.
7. To meet research needs.”

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE – Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are: “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values...” Other similar values that may be considered include botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Professional judgment is used to determine whether values exist to an outstandingly remarkable degree.

[P]

PLANNING CRITERIA - Rules that direct completion of the analysis used in developing the Forest Plan. Criteria may include: management philosophy, use of science, scale of analysis, use of information, use of classification systems, preparation of documents, collaboration/consultation, and public involvement.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE - From amongst the alternatives developed to address the range of possible solutions to the management issues of the Forest, the responsible official, using the Decision Criteria, selects that alternative that he/she feels best resolves the management issues within the context of the mission and priorities of the Forest Service. The preferred alternative is the basis for the Proposed Forest Plan.

PRESCRIBED FIRE – The application of fire under specified conditions to achieve specific land management objectives.

PRESCRIPTION AREA UNIT - A mapped block of NFS lands that has a single management prescription (MP). For example, each of the 5 wilderness areas on the Forest is a separate prescription area unit for MP 5.0. Prescription area units are currently mapped for the Forest (see project record) but they may change over time as NFS lands are acquired or exchanged, or as MPs change.

PRIMARY RANGE – Habitat that is most likely to be used for summer roosting, foraging, and fall swarming by Indiana bats. On the Monongahela National Forest, primary range generally includes all lands within 5 miles of known Indiana bat hibernacula.

PRIMITIVE – A Recreation Opportunity Spectrum classification for areas characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.

PROGRAMMATIC INCIDENTAL TAKE STATEMENT– See incidental take statement.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT – A Forest Service process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency decision are made by 1) informing the public about Forest Service activities, plans, and decisions, and 2) encouraging public understanding about and participation in the planning processes which lead to final decision-making.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Meetings, conferences, seminars, newsletters, written comments, survey questionnaires, or similar activities designed or held to obtain comments from the general public and specific groups about the National Forest System land management planning.

PUDDLING - This detrimental soil disturbance results from an alteration of soil structure severe enough to reduce the permeability and infiltration rate of the soil. Vehicle tracks are molded and typically have well-defined berms. Puddling can be caused by foot, hoof, and vehicle traffic.

[R]

RARE PLANT COMMUNITIES - These include areas where threatened, endangered, or sensitive plants or their potential habitats are found, and plant communities on rare, uncommon, or unique ecosystems such as wetlands, shale barrens, and limestone glades.

REASONABLE AND PRUDENT MEASURES – Action the US Fish and Wildlife Service believes necessary or appropriate to minimize the impacts to federally listed species.

RECORD OF DECISION (ROD) – This is a public document that identifies the alternative selected for management and provides the agency’s rationale behind the decision. It accompanies the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

RECOVERY PLAN – A plan that outlines actions needed to recover and/or protect a federally listed species.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) - A formal Forest Service process designed to delineate, define, and integrate outdoor recreation opportunities in land and resource management planning. ROS classes are used to describe all recreation opportunity areas: from natural, undisturbed, and undeveloped to heavily used, modified and developed. ROS delineations attempt to describe the kind of recreation experience one may have in a given part of the National Forest.

REGIONAL FORESTER’S SENSITIVE SPECIES (RFSS) – Plants or animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in numbers and density, or by habitat capability or trend that would reduce the species’ existing distribution. RFSS include, but are not limited to, USFWS candidate species, species de-listed by the USFWS in the last five years, and species with NatureServe Global, Trinomial or National Ranks of G1-G3, T1-T3 or N1-N3.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA) - Designated areas that are permanently protected and maintained in a natural condition, and which include: unique ecosystems or ecological features, habitat for rare or sensitive species of plants and animals; and high-quality examples of common ecosystems. The national network of RNAs helps to protect genetic, species, ecosystem, and landscape-level biological diversity. RNAs that represent natural condition, common ecosystems serve as a baseline or reference areas that can be compared with similar ecosystems undergoing silvicultural or other management prescriptions.

RIPARIAN AREA – Terrestrial area where the vegetation complex and microclimate conditions are products of the combined presence and influence of perennial and/or intermittent water, associated with high water tables, and soils that exhibit some wet characteristics.

ROAD - Any corridor on the land that is capable of being traveled by a full-sized vehicle; and that is not designated as a trail (with the expressed purpose of restricting full-sized vehicles).

ROAD ABANDONMENT - Method of road obliteration in which the road is rendered unusable to motorized vehicles.

ROAD CLOSURE - Process of closing a road to public vehicle traffic. Closures are used on system roads (roads intended for future use) for the purpose of limiting or prohibiting particular types of travel. System roads may be closed to all motorized traffic; or they may be closed to vehicle traffic, but remain accessible to trail vehicles (such as snowmobiles or ATVs). Gates may be used as closure devices when the intent is to restrict public traffic but permit administrative traffic, or to restrict traffic periodically or seasonally. Less flexible closure devices, such as berms, rocks, tank traps or downed trees may be used when the intent is to close the road to any vehicle traffic and essentially "mothball" the road until it is needed again some years in the future. Temporary roads may be closed during their period of operation, but will be obliterated when their utility is complete.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION – Supervision, inspecting, actual building, and incurrence of all costs incidental to the construction or reconstruction of a road.

ROAD DENSITY - The quantity of roads per unit area, measured as miles per square mile.

ROADED MODIFIED (RM) – ROS classification for areas characterized with opportunity to get away from other users, easy access, little challenge or risk; substantially modified environment (roads, timber harvest units, slash, etc.); little evidence of other users except on roads; little regulation of users except on roads; standard motorized use; and vegetation alteration to enhance recreation setting.

ROADED NATURAL (RN) – ROS classification for areas characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Such evidence usually harmonizes with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be moderate to high, with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is allowed and incorporated into construction standards and design of facilities

ROAD OBLITERATION - Process of removing a road from the landscape. Obliteration is used on system and temporary roads that are to be removed from service (decommissioned). Obliteration can include removing evidence of any access points; removing any structures from the roadbed (such as culverts, bridges, signs, guide rails, etc.); and restoring wetlands and riparian areas.

RURAL (R) – ROS classification for areas characterized by a natural environment that has been substantially modified by development of structures, vegetative manipulation, or pastoral agriculture development. Resource modification and utilization practices may be used to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sound of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Moderate user densities are present away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.

RUTTING - Rutting is a more extreme form of detrimental puddling. Soils with low bearing strength (such as clays and organic soils) and those with high water tables are particularly susceptible. The ruts are molded and typically have well-defined berms. They disrupt soil structure and porosity, can adversely alter local groundwater hydrology and wetland function, and provide conduits for runoff. Rutting should be prevented and should be confined to less than 5 percent of an activity area.

Deep ruts	Ocular assessment	Relatively continuous tracks dominantly in excess of 6 inches deep and 10 feet long	High - easily detectable
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[S]

SCENERY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SMS) – This system integrates aesthetics with biological, physical, and social/cultural resources when considering forest scenery during forest planning and project design.

SCENIC INTEGRITY – State of naturalness, or conversely, the state of disturbance created by human activities or alteration. Integrity is stated in degrees of deviation from the existing landscape character in a national forest.

SCOPING – Determining the extent of analysis necessary for an informed decision of a proposed action. The process includes: 1) reviewing Forest Plan direction as it relates to the analysis; 2) contacting those members of the public interested or affected by the proposed action to get their comments; and 3) determining local management concerns. This process may continue throughout project planning until a decision is made.

SECURITY AREAS – A portion of a management prescription unit in which timber harvest operations do not occur during a particular management entry. Security areas ensure that part of each management prescription unit is reserved as habitat for disturbance-sensitive wildlife during each management entry.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE MOTORIZED (SPM) – ROS classification for areas characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but would be subtle. Motorized use of primitive roads with predominantly natural surfaces and trails may be authorized.

SEMI-PRIMITIVE NON-MOTORIZED (SPNM) – ROS classification for areas characterized by predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but would be subtle. Motorized recreation use is not permitted, but primitive roads used for other resource management activities may be present on a limited basis. Use of such roads may be restricted to minimize impacts on recreational experience opportunities or other resources.

SENSITIVE SOILS – Soils on the MNF that are characterized as having high risk for erosion, slippage, and compaction due to the presence of floodplains, slopes greater than 50 percent, slippage potential, or having formed from limestone and fine-grained shale or siltstone.

SENSITIVE SPECIES – Species designated by the Regional Forester and included on the Regional Forester’s Sensitive Species list. The list includes those species that are known, reported, or suspected to occur on, or in the immediate vicinity of the Eastern Region and require special management attention.

SHELTERWOOD – A series of two or three cuttings that open the stand and stimulate natural reproduction. A two cutting series has a seed cut and a removal cut, while a three cutting series has a preparatory cut, a seed cut, and a removal cut.

SLOPE CONTOURING – To construct or reconstruct a road in accordance with natural contours.

SNAG – A standing dead tree.

SPECIAL AREAS – Special designated areas included in Management Prescription 8.0. They include the NRA, National Natural Landmarks, Scenic Areas, Ecological Areas, and research areas.

SPECIAL USE PERMIT – A permit issued by the Forest Service, which authorizes use of National Forest System lands, improvements, and resources.

SPECIES VIABILITY EVALUATION (SVE) – This process of evaluating the viability of existing native and desired non-native species. The process includes identifying species at risk, compiling information about the species, and evaluating potential risks to viability under each of the plan alternatives.

STAND (of trees) – A community of trees occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age, arrangement, and condition as to be distinguishable from the forest on adjacent areas.

STANDARD - A binding limitation placed on management actions. Standards are typically action or activity restrictions designed to prevent degradation of resource conditions, or exceeding a threshold of unacceptable effects, so that conditions can be maintained or restored over time. However, exceptions may be made in some cases to allow temporary or short-term effects in order to achieve long-term goals. Standards must be within the authority and ability of the Forest Service to enforce. A project or action that varies from a relevant standard may not be authorized unless the Forest Plan is amended to modify, remove, or waive its application.

SUCCESSION - A series of dynamic changes by which organisms succeed one another through plant community (seral) stages leading to a potential natural community or climax. In the Plan Revision process, these are generally referred to as early, mid and late successional stages. Stages are transitory in nature, and describe a plant community from its earliest growth condition to a condition of full maturity.

SUITABLE HABITAT (for WV Northern Flying Squirrel) – Areas that have habitat characteristics required by WV northern flying squirrels as indicated by known capture locations. All suitable habitat is assumed to be potentially occupied by the WVNFS, even if no WVNFS have been captured in it (USFWS 2001). Generally, it includes forest habitat with red spruce and mixed red spruce/northern hardwood forest, Norway spruce plantations, mixed eastern hemlock/northern hardwoods, and overstory eastern hemlock or balsam fir with red spruce present in the understory. Suitable habitat also includes an 80-meter buffer around areas with the above-listed characteristics, as well as corridors to provide linkages for habitat areas and prevent barriers to movement.

SUITABLE TIMBERLAND – National Forest System land designated in the Forest Plan to be managed for timber production on a regulated basis. Also referred to as “suited timberland”.

SUSTAINED YIELD – The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the National Forest without impairment of the productivity of the land.

[T]

TAKE – To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct.

TEMPORARY ROAD OR TRAIL – A road or trail necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

THREATENED SPECIES – Species listed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as being nationally threatened.

TIMBER SALE – The cutting and removal of designated trees under the authority of a contract.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI) – Usually related to activities conducted in young stands of timber to improve growth rate and form of the remaining trees. Examples are: thinning, pruning, fertilization, and control of undesirable vegetation.

TOPSOILING - Obtaining soil material favorable to plant growth from other places and spreading it over an area where vegetation is to be established. Topsoil is presumably a fertile soil or soil material, or one that responds to fertilization, ordinarily rich in organic matter.

TOTAL ROAD DENSITY - The measure of all roads per unit area, whether open or closed to traffic.

TRAFFIC SERVICE LEVEL (TSL) - A classification system developed by the Forest Service to describe a road in terms of the standard of vehicle one can expect to operate and the travel experience one can expect to encounter on the roadway.

TRAIL - Any corridor on the land intended exclusively as a pathway for travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicle traffic. Vehicles include bicycles, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, and motorcycles.

[U]

UNAUTHORIZED ROAD OR TRAIL – A road or trail that is not a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail, and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT - The application of a combination of actions needed to simultaneously maintain continuous forest cover, recurring regeneration of desirable species, and the orderly growth and development of trees through a range of diameter or age classes. This can be applied to a specific stand of trees or an entire ecosystem.

UNSUITABLE TIMBERLAND – Forest land not managed for timber production because:

- Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture, or the Chief of the Forest Service has withdrawn it from suitability;
- It is not producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood;
- Technology is not available to prevent irreversible damage to soils productivity, or watershed conditions;
- There is no reasonable assurance based on existing technology and knowledge, that it is possible to restock lands within 5 years after final harvest, as reflected in current research and experience
- There is, at present, a lack of adequate information about responses to timber management activities; or
- Timber management is inconsistent with or not cost efficient in meeting the management requirements and multiple-use objectives stated in the Forest Plan.

URBAN – ROS classification for areas characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural-appearing elements. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are often used to enhance specific recreational activities. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans are predominant on the site and in nearby areas. Facilities for highly intensified motor use and parking are available with forms of mass transit often available to carry people throughout the site.

[V]

VEGETATIVE MANIPULATION – The forced change of one vegetation type to another. It can be done with mechanical equipment, chemicals, or fire. Usually, this is done to provide timber products, increase forage for livestock, improve scenic views, and/or to improve habitat for wildlife.

VIABLE POPULATION – A population that has adequate numbers and dispersion of reproductive individuals to ensure the continued existence of the species population on the planning area.

[W]

WILDERNESS – The National Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964 defines a wilderness as an area of undeveloped, federally owned land designated by Congress that has the following characteristics:

- It is affected primarily by the forces of nature, where man is a visitor who does not remain. It may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.
- It possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and confined type of recreation.
- It is an area large enough so that continued use will not change its unspoiled natural condition.

WILDLAND FIRE SITUATION ANALYSIS – A document that is used to develop and record fire suppression decisions.

WILDLIFE OPENINGS – Openings maintained to meet various foods or cover needs for wildlife. They may contain native vegetation or non-native but non-invasive planted crops, and they may be maintained by burning, disking, mowing, planting, fertilizing, grazing, or applying herbicides.

WOODS ROADS – User-created roads that have never been designed, constructed, or maintained.

ACRONYMS

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation
ANC	Acid Neutralizing Capacity
AOI	Area of Influence
APCC	Air Pollution Control Commission
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
AQRV	Air Quality Related Values
ASQ	Allowable Sale Quantity
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
AUM	Animal Unit Months
BA	Biological Assessment
Bcf	Billion cubic feet
BCR	Bird Conservation Region
BE	Biological Evaluation
BEIG	Built Environment Image Guide
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BO	Biological Opinion
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAAA	Clean Air Act Amendment
CCF	Hundred Cubic Feet
CEQ	Council of Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMS	Cheat Mountain Salamander
CRNA	Candidate Research Natural Area
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DFC	Desired Future Conditions
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ELT	Ecological Land Type
ELTP	Ecological Land Type Phase
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act

FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FHA	Federal Highway Administration
FMAP	Fire Management Action Plan
FOFEM	First Order Fire Effects Model
FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRPA	Government Records and Proficiency Act
HSH	Highland Scenic Highway
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IMPROVE	Inter-agency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRA	Inventoried Roadless Areas
IS	Interpretive Services
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LTA	Land Type Association
LTSYC	Long Term Sustained Yield Capacity
LWD	Large Woody Debris
MAGIC	Model of Acidification of Groundwater in Catchments
MBF	Thousand Board Feet
MCF	Thousand cubic feet
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MMBF	Million Board Feet
MMCF	Million Cubic Feet
MNF	Monongahela National Forest
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Management Prescription
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFC	Need for Change
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFS	National Forest System

NNIS	Non-native Invasive Species
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO _x	Nitrogen Oxide
NRA	National Recreation Area
NRAO	National Radio Astronomy Observatory
NRCS	National Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OA	Opportunity Area
OHV	Off Highway Vehicle
ORV	Off Road Vehicle
OSM	Office of Surface Mining
PILT	Payment In Lieu of Taxes
PM	Particulate Matter
PNV	Present Net Value
ppm	Parts per million
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RARE	Roadless Area Review and Evaluation
RFD	Reasonably Foreseeable Gas Development
RFSS	Regional Forester Sensitive Species
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RPA	Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act
RVD	Recreation Visitor Day
SCORP	State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SIO	Scenic Integrity Objectives
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMS	Scenery Management System
SO ₂	Sulfur Dioxide
SO ₄	Sulphate
SPM	Semi-Primitive Motorized
SPNM	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized
SUP	Special Use Permit
SVE	Species Viability Evaluation
TEP	Threatened, Endangered, or Proposed

TEUI	Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TSI	Timber Stand Improvement
TSL	Traffic Service Level
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of Interior
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	US Geological Survey
VBEB	Virginia Big-Eared Bat
VFD	Volunteer Fire Department
IEWS	Visibility Information Exchange Web System
VOC	Volatile Organic Compounds
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
WFSA	Wildland Fire Situation Analysis
WSR	Wild and Scenic River
WVAPCC	West Virginia Air Pollution Control Commission
WVDA	West Virginia Department of Agriculture
WVDEP	West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection
WVDNR	West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
WVDOH	West Virginia Division of Highways
WVNFS	West Virginia Northern Flying Squirrel
WVU	West Virginia University