

# Glossary

## Quick Guide to commonly used acronyms

(Definitions for acronyms follow in the main glossary)

**AQRV:** Air Quality Related Values

**AUM:** Animal Unit Month

**BMP:** Best Management Practices

**EMS:** Environmental Management System

**MMCF:** Million Cubic Feet

**MMBF:** Million Board Feet

**OHV:** Off-Highway Vehicles or Off-Road Vehicles

**ORV:** Outstandingly Remarkable Value

**RCA:** Riparian Conservation Area

**RNA:** Research Natural Area

**ROS:** Recreation Opportunity Spectrum

**TMDL:** Total Maximum Daily Load

**TSPQ:** Total Sale Program Quantity

**WUI:** Wildland Urban Interface

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**Active Restoration Watershed:** Watersheds that are a high priority for aquatic restoration. These watersheds generally do not meet desired conditions and have a high potential to move toward desired conditions through aquatic restoration.

**Adaptive Management:** A dynamic approach to resource management in which the effects of treatments and decisions are continually monitored and used, along with research results, to modify management on a continuing basis to ensure that objectives are being met. The Dictionary of Forestry (Helms 1998)

**Air Quality Related Values (AQRV):** A scenic, cultural, physical, biological, ecological, or recreational resource which may be affected by a change in air quality as defined by the land manager for federal lands or as

defined by State or Indian governing body for non federal lands within their jurisdiction. AQRV's include those features or properties of a Class I Wilderness that made the area worthy of designation as a wilderness and that would or could be adversely affected by air pollution. AQRVs generally relate to visibility, odor, flora, fauna, soil, water, climate, geological features, and cultural resources. AQRVs will be specific, however, for each wilderness. AQRVs are considered in the context of Class I protection under the Clean Air Act.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM):** The amount of forage required by one cow and a calf, or the equivalent, for one month.

**Appropriate Management Response (AMR):** Any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using FMU strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.

**Bankfull Discharge:** The stream flow that fills a channel to the level of its active floodplain. Bankfull discharge generally occurs every one to two years.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Activities, prohibitions, maintenance procedures, or other management practices used to protect and improve water quality. BMPs may or may not be sufficient to achieve water quality standards and protect beneficial uses.

**Biodiversity/Biological Diversity:** The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, their communities, and the ecosystems and landscapes of which they are a part. As used in this document, biodiversity refers to native biological diversity; therefore, increases in species diversity resulting from the introduction of nonnative species would not constitute an increase in biodiversity.

**Biomass:** Forest products other than saw logs removed from the landscape to benefit ecosystem management objectives.

**Categorical Exclusion (CE):** If a proposed action meets the criteria for a category that has already been determined to have no significant effects on the environment, then that action may, in the absence of any extraordinary circumstances, be “categorically excluded” from documentation in an EA or EIS.

**Ceded Lands:** Areas where a tribe did “cede, relinquish, and convey to the U.S. all their right, title, and interest in the lands and country occupied by them” at treaty signing or when reservations were established. Ceded land references are qualified by the legal definition of original tribal occupancy

issued in 1978 by the U.S. Court of Claims. In effect: “only lands actually owned by a tribe can be ceded to the U.S.”

**Coarse Filter Approach:** A concept of conserving species diversity by providing adequate representation (distribution and abundance) of ecological land units considering the historical range of variability based upon an understanding of the natural disturbance regimes.

**Connectivity:** The arrangement of habitats that allows organisms and ecological processes to move across the landscape; patches of similar habitats are either close together or linked by corridors of vegetation.

**Conservation Strategy:** A management scheme or plan to conserve or sustain particular ecosystem elements such as rare species or habitats. An example of a conservation strategy would be to survey for potential habitats during project planning in order to protect known populations of a rare species through project-specific measures.

**Conservation Watershed:** Watersheds that are at or very close to desired conditions (soils, watersheds, and aquatic ecosystems) to the extent possible, or watersheds where restoration measures have been implemented to allow a trend toward desired conditions over time. All reasonable restoration measures have been implemented on national forest lands to the degree possible. Conservation watersheds are sixth code hydrologic units.

**Cultural Resource:** The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) and conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, as a sacred area of native peoples, etc.) of an area of prehistoric or historic occupation.

**Designated road, trail or area:** A National Forest System road, trail or an area on National Forest System land that is designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 212.51 on a motor vehicle use map.

**Designated Wilderness** – Any area of land designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established in the Wilderness Act of 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136).

**Desired Condition:** The social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area is to be directed. Desired conditions are long-term in nature and aspirational, but are neither commitments nor final decisions approving projects and activities. Desired conditions may be achievable only over a period longer than the 15 years covered by the plan.

**Developed Recreation:** Outdoor recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are ski areas, resorts, and campgrounds.

**Developed Recreation Sites:** Relatively small, distinctly defined area where facilities are provided for concentrated public use (e.g., campgrounds, picnic areas, trail heads and swimming areas).

**Dispersed Recreation:** Outdoor recreation in which visitors are diffused over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of the people

**Disturbance:** Any relatively discrete event, either natural or human-induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

**Dominant Vegetation Type** (Region 1 Vegetation Council 2003): Dominant vegetation is determined by –

- Single species – Species that makes up at least 60 percent of the canopy cover or weighted basal area.
- Species mix – No single species determination can be made. Type of mix, either tolerant or intolerant, is determined by what species combination makes up 80 percent of the canopy cover or weighted basal area, with each species contributing more than 20 percent to the total.
  - If the mix is tolerant, then label is dependent on composition. TGCH: if grand fir (ABGR), western Redcedar (THPL), and/or western hemlock (TSHE) comprise the plurality of the canopy cover or weighted basal area.
  - TASH: if majority of the canopy cover or weighted basal area is in subalpine fir (ABLA), Engelmann spruce, and/or mountain hemlock (TSME).
  - IMXS: if majority of the canopy cover or weighted basal area is from a combination of any other species than described above.

**Downed Wood:** Downed wood provides living spaces for a host of organisms and serves as long-term storage sites for moisture, nutrients, and energy (Harmon et.al. 1986). Downed wood consists of fallen trees, large dead branches, and large fragments of wood found on or near the forest floor. Downed wood has been previously called coarse woody debris (CWD).

**Ecological Conditions:** Components of the biological and physical environment that can affect diversity of plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems. These components could include the abundance and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, roads and other structural developments, human uses, and invasive, exotic species.

**Ecological Process:** The actions or events that link organisms and their environment, such as predation, mutualism, successional development, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, primary productivity, and decay.

**Ecological Sustainability:** The maintenance or restoration of ecological system composition, structure, and function, which are characteristic of an area over time, including but not limited to ecological processes, biological diversity, and the productive capacity of ecological systems.

**Ecosystem:** An ecosystem is an interacting system of living organisms and their environment.

**Ecosystem Diversity** – The variety and relative extent of ecosystem types, including their composition, structure, and processes within all or part of an area of analysis.

**Ecosystem Integrity:** The capability of supporting and maintaining a balanced integrated, and adaptive community of organisms having species composition, diversity, and functional organization comparable to that of natural habitats of the region (Kerr and Dudley, 1981)

**Ecosystem Management:** This is a management practice and philosophy aimed at selecting, maintaining, and/or enhancing the ecological integrity of an ecosystem in order to ensure continued ecosystem health while providing resources, products, or non-consumptive values for humans. An integral part of ecosystem management is the maintenance of ecologically significant structure and processes within the ecosystem. The actions taken reflect the management goals and range from protection from human influence through to an increasing intensity of intervention to serve human needs.

**Endangered Species:** A plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act that is danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Environmental Assessment (EA):** The preliminary assessment in which we determine whether or not a proposed action is likely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** The document that discloses the analysis process underlying a proposed action that could have significant effects on the environment.

**Environmental Management System (EMS):** A globally embraced organizational management practice that allows an organization to strategically address its environmental issues and well as related health and safety matters. EMS implementation reflects accepted quality management principles based on the “Plan, Do, Check, Act,” model using a standard process to identify current activities, establish goals, implement plans to meet the goals, determine progress, and make improvements to ensure continual improvement.

**Facilities:** Those facilities, such as Ranger Stations, work centers, trail heads and cabins, which are used by the Forest Service in the management of the National Forest

**Fine Filter Approach** – An analysis approach that focuses on individual species (species at risk, species of interest) by which assessments are conducted to evaluate whether sufficient amount and distribution of habitat is provided under the coarse filter strategy.

**Fire-Adapted Ecosystem:** An arrangement of populations that have made long-term genetic changes in response to the presence of fire in the environment.

**Fire Exclusion:** The disruption of a characteristic pattern of fire intensity and occurrence (primarily through fire suppression). Also known as wildfire exclusion.

**Fire Interval:** Time (in years) between two successive fires in a designated area (i.e., the interval between two successive fire occurrences); the size of the area must be clearly specified.

**Fire Regime:** The fire pattern across the landscape, characterized by occurrence interval and relative intensity. Fire regimes result from a unique combination of climate and vegetation. Fire regimes exist on a continuum from short-interval, low-intensity (stand maintenance) fires to long-interval, high-intensity (stand replacement) fires.

**Fire Severity:** Degree to which a site has been altered or disrupted by fire; also used to describe the product of fire intensity and residence time (McPherson and others 1990, Agee 1994, Rowe 1983). The effects of fire on resources displayed in terms of benefit or loss.

**Fire Suppression:** All work and activities connected with control and fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

**Fish Passage Barrier:** A man-made structure that prevents or inhibits the movement of fish. Road culverts are a common fish passage barrier.

**Forest Health:** The perceived condition of a forest derived from concerns about such factors as age, structure, composition, function, vigor, presence of unusual levels of insects or disease, and resilience to disturbance. Individual and cultural viewpoints, land management objectives, spatial and temporal scales, the relative health of the stands that make up the forest, and the appearance of the forest at a point which influences the perception and interpretation of forest health.

**Forest Land:** Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest uses. Lands developed for non-forest use include areas for crops; improved pasture; residential or administrative areas; improved roads of any width and adjoining road clearing; and power line clearings of any width.

**Forest Roads:** As defined in Title 23, Section 101 of the United States Code (23U.S.C. 101), any road wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System and which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources. (FSM 7705)

**Fuel:** Fuel is comprised of living and dead vegetation that can be ignited. It is often classified as dead or alive and as natural fuels or activity fuels (resulting from human actions, usually from logging operations). Fuel components refer to such items as downed dead woody material by various size classes, litter, duff, herbaceous vegetation, live foliage etc. (Brown 2000).

**Fuel Loading:** The weight per unit area of fuel, often expressed in tons per acre or tons per hectare. Dead woody fuel loadings are commonly described for small material in diameter classes of 0 to 1/4-, 1/4 to 1-, and 1 to 3-inches and for large material in one class greater than 3 inches (Brown 2000).

**Geographic Area:** Typically large areas within which people tend to have some commonality in terms of how they relate to the National Forest – where they reside, recreate, take interest in a Forest Service project, or are likely to participate in public land management planning discussions. This is a method by which to organize our public involvement activities in such a way that people who live, or have a special interest in, a given area can focus greater attention on that area when they are giving us planning input.

**Goal:** A broad, strategic statement that describes the end results of National Forest management that is believed to be achievable in the long-term.

**Guideline:** Provide information and technical guidance for project and activity decision-making to help achieve desired conditions and objectives. Guidelines are not final decisions approving projects and activities.

**Habitat:** (a) An area in which a specific plant or animal can naturally live, grow, and reproduce. (b) For wildlife, habitat is the combination of food, water, cover, and space.

**Habitat Type:** The land area that supports, or has the potential of supporting the same primary climax vegetation.

**Historic Range of Variation:** Spatial and temporal variation in ecosystem characteristics during a period of time when the influences of European-American settlement were minimal.

**Hydrologic Units:** A hierarchical mapping and coding system for drainage areas. The hierarchy starts with very large river basins and progresses down to small sub-watersheds.

**Impaired Waters:** Streams, rivers, or lakes that fail to support applicable water quality standards for associated beneficial uses. Impaired water bodies do not fully meet water quality standards (i.e., do not fully support their designated uses) even though required technology-based controls and best management practices may already be in place.

**Institutional Outfitters:** Service providers that typically cater to universities, clubs, religious organizations, camps rehabilitation centers, or special interest groups.

**Instream Habitat Features:** Numeric descriptions of channel conditions and aquatic habitats that reflect reference conditions.

**Integrated Pest Management:** Uses prevention techniques, early detection, diagnosis and treatment of pest organisms in cooperation and coordination with other agencies and organizations to control or eradicate invasive species. Treatment uses cost effective methods that minimize adverse effects to non-target species. Examples:

- **Cultural:** Silvicultural prescriptions, change of crop species
- **Mechanical:** Fire, cultivation, pruning, trapping
- **Biological:** Use of parasites, predators, or disease
- **Genetic:** Use of resistant species or cultivars
- **Chemical:** Use of insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc

**Intensity of Management:** See Management Intensity.

**Invasive Species:** Non-native species that are introduced into an area in which they did not evolve, and in which they usually have few or no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread. These species can cause environmental harm by significantly changing the ecosystem composition,



structure, or processes, and can cause economic harm or harm to human health.

**Inventoried Roadless Area:** Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service's Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning. Those areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November, 2000, which are held at the National Headquarters of the Forest Service, or any update, correction, or revision of those maps.

**Land Adjustment Plan:** A document to guide the long-range (5-10 year), land ownership program and to plan the annual program of work at the regional and forest levels. In this context, land ownership includes purchases and donations of land or interests in land, exchanges, interchanges or transfers with other federal agencies, sales, grants, title claims and reconveyance of land erroneously acquired.

**Lands Generally Suitable For Timber Harvest:** This includes (1) lands where timber production is compatible with the achievement of desired conditions and objectives established by the plan and (2) other lands where salvage sales or other harvest necessary for multiple-use objectives other than timber production may take place.

**Limits of Acceptable Change:** Limits of acceptable change are a set of criteria that has been created to protect or restore the conditions necessary to maintain wilderness values that visitors seek. It focuses on limiting change to resources and social encounters that, if overused, would degrade the wilderness experience and resource.

**Long-Term Sustained-Yield Timber Capacity:** The highest uniform wood yield that may be sustained under specified management intensities consistent with multiple-use objectives after stands have reached desired conditions.

**MMBF:** Million board feet. Commonly used measurement for timber volume.

**MMCF:** Million cubic feet. Commonly used measurement for timber volume.

**Management Area:** An area with similar management objectives and a common management description and suitable uses.

**Management-Ignited Fire:** See "Prescribed Fire."

## Management Intensity

- **High Intensity:** Substantially modified environment, landscapes appear managed. Forest management activities may be dominant up close, but remain subordinate from distant sensitive roads and highways. Highly developed facilities may be present for comfort and convenience, sights and sounds of human development are very evident, social encounters are common and may act as a draw. (MAs 5.1, 5.2, and 6.1)
- **Moderate Intensity:** Mostly natural-appearing environment, landscapes may appear modified as viewed from sensitive roads and trails. Vegetative alterations are done to maintain desired visual, recreation, and ecological characteristics. Rustic developed and dispersed facilities may be present for comfort and convenience. Remoteness is of little relevance, social encounters are common. (MA 4.1)
- **Low Intensity:** Predominantly natural appearing environment, landscapes appear slightly managed. Vegetative alterations may occur, but they tend to be small in size, widely dispersed and visually subordinate. Rustic developed and dispersed facilities are limited. Individuals are slightly removed from sights and sounds of human activity. Remoteness is of little relevance but may be common, social encounters are less common. (MA 3.3, some 3.1)
- **Very Low Intensity:** natural appearing environment, landscapes are dominated by vegetation not obviously modified. Vegetative alterations are primarily sanitation salvage or very small units in size and number, widely dispersed and not evident. No developed facilities are present for visitor comfort; minimal improvements may be present from past dispersed use. Individuals are removed from sights and sounds of human activity. Remoteness is common, social encounters may be minimal. (MA 2.2, some 2.1)

**Mechanical Vegetation Treatment:** Any activity undertaken to modify the existing condition of the vegetation accomplished with mechanical, heavy equipment instead of by hand with a power saw.

**Mechanized Use:** Any non-motorized device with (gear supported) wheels, tracks, skids, or floatation, used for personal or materials transport. Examples include but are not limited to a bicycle, game cart, and wheelbarrow.

**Metapopulation:** A set of partially isolated populations belonging to the same species. The populations are able to exchange individuals and re-colonize sites in which the species has recently become extinct.

**Mixed-Severity Fire:** Fires occur at an average of 25 to 100 years (Arno 1994). A fire that burns across the landscape leaving a mosaic of burned and unburned vegetation and killing 20 to 80 percent of the overstory trees.

**Motor Vehicle:** Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than:

- A vehicle operated on rails
- Any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery powered, that is designed solely for the use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.

**Motor Vehicle Use Map:** A map reflecting designated roads, trails, and areas on administrative unit or a Ranger District of the National Forest System.

**Multiple-Use Purposes:** In some areas, achieving the resource objectives and desired conditions of vegetation may make it difficult to provide timber products on a planned and reasonably predictable basis, yet timber harvesting may be an important tool to restore or maintain those desired conditions. Examples of the reasons that timber harvest activity could occur on lands where achieving desired conditions or resource objectives is not compatible with timber production may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Maintaining or creating desired forest characteristics.
- b. Managing experimental forests.
- c. Restoring meadow, rangeland, and forest ecosystems being changed by forest succession.
- d. Cutting trees to promote the safety of forest users. This includes hazard tree removal in campgrounds, picnic grounds, ski areas, administrative sites, and along roads and trails open to public travel.
- e. Timber harvesting to meet habitat requirements for wildlife.
- f. Timber harvesting to reduce fuel loading.

**Municipal Water Supply:** See Public Water System/Supply.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA):** Federal law that requires us to (1) give the public fair and open opportunity to comment on our decision processes, and (2) clearly document the analysis processes we conducted in reaching our decisions. The Forest Service conducts environmental analysis to assess the nature, characteristics, and significance of the effects of a proposed action and alternatives considered. The analysis is documented in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental

Assessment (EA), or categorically excluded if within categories approved for exclusion from documentation.

**National Historic Trail:** A trail, established by section 5 of the National Historic Trails Act of 1968, that follows as closely as possible and practicable the original trail or route of travel of national historic significance. National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.

**National Recreation Trail:** Trails designated by the Regional Forester as part of the National system of trails authorized by the National Trails System Act. National recreation trails provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses.

**National Register of Historic Places:** The Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include: districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is a part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

**National Wild and Scenic River System:** Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for preservation of their free-flowing condition

**National Wilderness Preservation System:** All lands covered by the Wilderness Act and subsequent wilderness designations, irrespective of the department or agency having jurisdiction.

**Native Species:** Animals or plants that have historically occupied a given aquatic or terrestrial area.

**NatureServe:** NatureServe is a non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action. NatureServe represents an international network of biological inventories – known as natural heritage programs or conservation data centers – operating in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

**New Invaders:** An invasive species in an area where it was not previously established.

**Objectives:** Concise projections of measurable, time-specific intended outcomes. The objectives for a plan are the means of measuring progress toward achieving or maintaining desired conditions.

**Off-Highway Vehicles or Off-Road Vehicles (OHV):** Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

**Old Growth:** This is defined by *Old Growth Types of the Northern Region* (Green et al. 1992, errata corrected 02/05). Tables and descriptions for western Montana are quantified by an identified habitat type, tree size, tree age, trees per acre, and basal area per acre.

**Opportunity Class:** Opportunity classes represent a spectrum of wilderness experience opportunities within the wilderness area. The classes describe the existing areas where different resources and social conditions are found. They identify management actions that are acceptable within each class.

**Other Lands:** These are lands where achieving desired conditions or resource objectives is not compatible with timber production, but timber harvests can be used to achieve other multiple-use purposes.

**Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):** terms used to describe river related values that are rare and unique or exemplify features that are significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Areas examined to contain ORVs include Scenery, Recreation, Geology, Fish, Wildlife, Prehistory, and History

**Over-Snow Vehicle (snowmobile):** A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis while in use over snow.

**Plan Set of Documents:** This is the complete set of documentation supporting conclusions reached in the land management plan and it may include but is not limited to: evaluation reports, documentation of public involvement, the plan including applicable maps, applicable plan improvement documents, applicable NEPA documents if any, the monitoring program for the plan area, and documents relating to the EMS established for the unit. 36 CFR 219.7(a)(1).

**Potential Vegetation Group:** Groupings of habitat types on the basis of similar moisture or temperature environment.

**Prescribed Fire:** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition.

**Programmatic Agreement (Heritage Resources):** A document authorized by 36 CFR 800.13 which implements sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470 f). These agreements describe stipulations for administering cultural resources on National Forest System land.

**Public Access:** Usually refers to a road or trail route over which a public agency claims right-of-way available for public use.

**Public Water System/Supply:** A public works system that withdraws water from a well, stream or lake for community or non-community water supplies (municipal use).

**Rangeland (range):** Land on which vegetation is predominantly grasses, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing. Rangeland may include some forest and barren land.

**Range of Variation:** Selected ecosystem diversity components such as vegetative composition and structure that existed with historic dominant disturbance regimes. American Indian influences during the reference period are considered part of the range of variation.

**Recommended Wilderness:** Lands that are recommended to Congress for inclusion into the National Wilderness Preservation System. If approved, they become “designated wilderness.”

**Recreational Livestock Use:** The use of an area by domesticated animals, such as horses and mules, which are used primarily in conjunction with recreation activities.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** The ROS system is a framework that identifies opportunities and experiences the public desires, and it provides guidance for determining if the desired recreation experiences are being maintained or changed. The following represent the spectrum of classes and describes the setting characteristics and the experience characterizations.

**Recreation Residence:** A house or cabin on national forest land for seasonal recreation use that is not the primary residence of the owner.

**Reference Conditions:** Stream channel and aquatic habitat conditions that are relatively undisturbed by human activities with 80 to 100 years of fire exclusion and may be similar to historic conditions. Reference conditions generally describe a stable, morphological form, and may be described in the following terms:

- Channel pattern, dimension, and profile.

- Bed and bank materials.
- Bank stability.
- Riparian vegetation.
- Large woody material.
- Pool frequency and residual pool depth.
- Water temperature.

**Regularly Scheduled Timber Harvest:** A flow of forest products that is planned on a reasonably predictable basis over time to meet desired conditions, multiple-use resource objectives, and is compatible with producing commercial forest products.

**Research Natural Area (RNA):** An area that illustrates or typifies for research or educational purposes, the important forest and range types in each forest region, as well as other plant communities that have special or unique characteristics of scientific interest and importance. (36 CFR 1251.23)

**Resilience/Resilient:** Capability to withstand or recover from disturbance or change.

**Responsible Official:** The official with the authority and responsibility to oversee the planning process and to approve plans, plan amendments, and plan revisions.

**Restoration:** Actions that help an ecosystem move toward desired conditions.

**Right-of-Way, Rights-of-Way:** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project facility passing over, upon, under, or through such land.

**Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs):** RCAs are portions of watersheds where riparian dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific guidelines. The default RCA widths apply along all streams, except where site specific analysis supports modification.

- **Category 1 – Fish bearing streams:** RCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100 year floodplain, or to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.

- **Category 2 – Permanently flowing non-fish bearing streams:** RCAs consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100 year floodplain, or to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest.
- **Category 3 - Ponds, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands greater than 1 acre:** RCAs consist of the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of the seasonally saturated soil, to the extent of moderately and highly unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope distance from the edge of the maximum pool elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs or from the edge of the wetland, pond or lake, whichever is greatest.
- **Category 4 – Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre:** This category includes features with high variability in size and site-specific characteristics. At a minimum, the RCAs must include the area from the edges of the stream channel or wetland, to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 100 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.
- **Category 5 - Non-forested rangeland ecosystems:** the RCA width for permanent flowing streams in categories 1 and 2 is the extent of the 100 year floodplain.

**Riparian Ecosystem:** Plant communities contiguous to and affected by surface and subsurface water. Riparian areas are usually transitional between water bodies and uplands.

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

**Road Decommissioning:** activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state.

**Road Improvement:** Activities that result in an increase of an existing traffic service level, expands its capacity, or changes its original design function.

**Road Maintenance:** The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective.

**Road Obliteration:** Completely eliminating the roadbed by restoring natural contours and slopes; a type of decommissioning treatment.



**Road Storage** (Maintenance Level 1): Roads remain on the Forest transportation system and would be available for use in the long term. Closed to vehicular traffic but may be open or suitable to non-motorized traffic. Basic maintenance is performed to keep damage to adjacent resources to an acceptable level and to perpetuate the road to facilitate future management activities.

**Rustic:** Rustic refers to conditions or facilities that are lacking refinement, polish or sophistication. Simple, plain, rough surface or irregular.

**Salvage:** Removal of trees, which are dead or in imminent danger of being killed or damaged by injurious agents other than competition between trees, to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost.

**Sanitation Harvest:** The removal of trees to improve stand health by stopping or reducing actual or anticipated spread of insects and disease.

**Scenery Management System:** Is a tool for integrating the benefits, values, desires and preferences regarding aesthetics and scenery for all levels of management planning. It provides an overall framework for the inventory, analysis, and management of scenery on National Forest Land.

**Snag:** A standing, dead tree.

**Species of Concern:** Species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be necessary to prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act.

**Species of Interest:** Species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple-use objectives.

**Special Use Permit:** A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of National Forest land for some special purpose.

**Suitability:** Areas of National Forest System lands are classified as "generally suitable," or "generally not suitable," for various uses. The classification of suitability is guidance for project and activity decision-making

**Sustainability:** Satisfying present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

**System Roads** (National Forest System Road, Forest Road): A classified forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The term "National Forest System roads" is synonymous with the term "forest development roads".

**System Trails** (National Forest System Trail, Forest Trail): Trails wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving, the National Forests and other areas administered by the Forest Service that have been included in the Forest Transportation Atlas.

**Temporary Road:** a road necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

**Thinning:** (a) The cutting down and/or removing of trees from a forest to lessen the chance of a ground fire becoming a crown fire; a method of preparing an area so that a prescribed fire can be more easily controlled. Thinning influences the available amount of fuel and fuel management, and it can indirectly affect fuel moisture content and surface wind speeds. (b) A cultural treatment made to reduce stand density of trees primarily to improve growth, enhance forest health, or recover potential mortality.

**Threatened Species:** -- any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Timber Harvest:** The removal of trees for wood fiber utilization and other multiple-use purposes.

**Timber Production:** The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use.

**Timber Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ):** The estimated output of timber from the plan area. This estimate is displayed as an average annual cubic foot output for a decade. It includes projected outputs from lands generally suitable for timber harvest. The projected timber outputs reflect past and projected budget levels and organizational capacity to achieve the desired conditions and objectives in the plan.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant that a water body may receive from all sources without exceeding water quality standards. A TMDL can also be defined as a reduction in pollutant loading that results in meeting water quality standards

**Transportation system** (Forest Transportation System): The system of National Forest system roads, National Forest System trails, and airfields on National Forest System lands.

**Unconfined Recreation: (MA1.1)** Unconfined Recreation is to allow activities to take place without written restrictions or physical constraints.

**User created trail** (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.

**Water Quality Standard:** A provision of state, Tribal, or territorial (or in some cases, federal) law which defines the water quality goals for a waterbody or segment. Standards consist of designated uses, water quality criteria (both numeric and narrative), as well as anti-degradation policies and implementation procedures.

**Watershed Restoration:** Actions that help a stream, river, or watershed move toward desired conditions. Watershed restoration work may include actions such as fish barrier removal, road obliteration, streambank stabilization, or riparian planting.

**Wilderness:** See “Designated Wilderness” and “Recommended Wilderness.”

**Wilderness Study:** An analysis to determine an area's appropriateness, cost, and benefits for addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**Wildfire:** An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put the fire out.

**Wildland:** An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

**Wildland Fire:** Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include: wildfire, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire.

**Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP):** A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire.

**Wildland Fire Use:** The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined, designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP).

**Wildland Urban Interface (WUI):** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Because of their location, these structures are extremely vulnerable to fire should an ignition occur in the surrounding area.

**World-Class:** Being of highest caliber in the world.