GLOSSARY

Glossary of Terms in the Curlew Grassland Plan

Abiotic. Non-living. Climate is an abiotic component of ecosystems.

Acre-foot. A measure of water or sediment volume equal to the amount which would cover an area of one acre to a depth of one foot (325,851 gallons).

Active Lek. A traditional display area in or adjacent to sagebrush dominated habitats that has been attended by two or more male sage grouse in two or more of the previous five years.

Adaptive Management. A type of natural resource management that implies making decisions as part of an on-going process. Monitoring the results of actions will provide a flow of information that may indicate the need to change a course of action. Scientific findings and the needs of society may also indicate the need to adapt resource management to new information.

Affected Environment. The natural environment that exists at the present time in an area being analyzed.

Air Shed. A geographical area that, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air.

Allotment (range allotment). The area designated for use by a prescribed number of livestock for a prescribed period of time. Though an entire Ranger District may be divided into allotments, all land will not be grazed, because other uses, such as recreation or tree plantings, may be more important at a given time.

Alluvial Fan. A body of unconsolidated clastic material and debris flow, conical in shape, forming at the point where a stream emerges from a narrow valley onto a broader, less sloping valley floor.

Alternative. One of several policies, plans or projects proposed for decision-making.

Analysis Area. See "Regional Analysis Area."

Animal Unit Month (AUM). The amount of forage required by one calf and her cow or 1 horse or 5 sheep for one month.

Aquatic Ecosystem. The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities and the habitat features that occur therein.

Aquatic Habitat Types. The classification of instream habitat based on location within channel, patterns of water flow, and nature of flow controlling structures. Riffles are divided into three habitat types: low gradient riffles, rapids, and cascades. Pools are divided into seven types: secondary channel pools, backward pools, trench pools, plunge pools, lateral scour pools, dammed pools, and beaver ponds. Glides possess attributes of both riffles and pools and are characterized by moderately shallow water with an even flow that lacks pronounced turbulence.

Aquatic Macroinvertebrates. Invertebrates living within aquatic systems that are large enough to be seen with the naked eye, i.e. most aquatic insects.

Aquifer. A body of rock that is saturated with water or transmits water. When people drill wells, they tap water contained within an aquifer.

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

Assessment. The Renewable Resource Assessment required by the Resources Planning act (RPA).

Avoidance Areas. Areas having one or more physical, environmental, institutional or statutory impediments to corridor designation.

These are two types of avoidance areas:

1. Discretionary -- areas that may be crossed by corridors only if necessary and reasonable mitigation or avoidance of significant impacts can be obtained.

2. Nondiscretionary -- areas that may not be crossed by corridors unless authorized by the appropriate official (for example, Governor, President, etc.)

Background. The visible terrain beyond the foreground and middleground where individual trees are not visible but are blended into the total fabric of the stand. (See "Foreground" and "Middleground".)

Backslope. The component of the hill slope that forms the steepest inclined surface and is frequently the principal element. The surface is dominantly steep and linear in profile and erosional in origin.

Big Game. Those species of large mammals normally managed for sport hunting.

Biological Control. The use of natural means to control unwanted pests. Examples include introduced or naturally occurring predators such as wasps, or hormones that inhibit the reproduction of pests. Biological controls can sometimes be alternatives to mechanical or chemical means.

Biological Diversity. The number and abundance of species found within an a common environment. This includes the variety of genes, species, ecosystems and ecological processes that connect everything in a common environment.

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

Biome. The complex of living communities maintained by the climate of a region and characterized by a distinctive type of vegetation. Example of biomes in North American include the tundra, desert, prairie, and the western coniferous forests.

Biota. The plant and animal life of a particular region.

Biotic. Living. Green plants and soil microorganisms are biotic components of ecosystems.

BMP (Best Management Practices). Practices designed to prevent or reduce water pollution. Also referred to as Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs).

Broadcast Burn. Allowing a prescribed fire to burn over a designated area within well-defined boundaries for reduction of fuel hazard, improve forage for wildlife and livestock, or encourage successful regeneration of trees.

Browse. Twigs, leaves and young shoots of trees and shrubs that animals eat. Browse is often used to refer to the shrubs eaten by big game, such as elk and deer.

Buffer. A land area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that may be undesirable. Buffers may be set aside next to wildlife habitat to reduce abrupt change to habitat.

Canopy. The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees and other woody growth. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied ecosystem. The percent of a fixed area covered by the crown of an individual plant species or delimited by the vertical projection of its outermost perimeter; small openings in the crown are included.

Canopy Cover. Used to express the relative importance of individual species within a vegetation community or to express the canopy cover of woody species. Canopy cover may be used as a measure of land cover change or trend and is often used for wildlife habitat evaluations. (See Crown Closure).

Capability. The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices and at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils and geology, as well as the application of management practices, such as silviculture or protection from fire, insects and disease.

Capture (input). One of the ways functions are described; resources (organisms, materials, and energy) brought into the system (i.e., photosynthesis, migration, onto summer range, pollution brought in by wind or water.)

Cartographic Feature File. A data file containing the digital representation of all features, except contours, from a Primary Base Series map. Features are represented as line strings and points in ground coordinates with attribute information attached.

Catastrophic Condition. A significant change in forest conditions on the area that affects Forest Plan resource management objectives and their projected and scheduled outputs, uses, costs, and effects on local communities and environmental quality.

Channel Depth. The average depth of channel from mean high water mark to mean high water mark used to define stream type, instream flow calculations and riparian management.

Channel Gradient. The slope of the stream channel expressed on a percent of rise per unit length. A measure of the drop in water surface elevation per unit length of channel. The difference in water surface or streambed elevation of two study sites on a stream divided by the distance between the study sites.

Channel Roughness. A measurement used to determine energy losses and velocities of natural stream channels by using water energy slope (channel slope), velocity and hydraulic radius.

Channel Stability Rating. A rating of stream channels resistance capacity to the detachment of bed and bank materials.

Chemical Control. The use of pesticides and herbicides to control pests and undesirable plant species.

Clean Air Act. (42 U.S.C. 7609) Section 309 provides authority for the Environmental Protection Agency to review other agency environmental impact statements.

Climax. The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site where the vegetation has reached a highly stable condition.

Coarse Filter Management. Land management that addresses the needs of all associated species, communities, environments, and ecological processes in a land area. (See fine filter management.)

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

Concern. (Also management concern.) An issue, problem or condition that constrains the range of management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process.

Congressionally Classified and Designated Areas. See "Wilderness."

Connected Actions. Closely related actions that automatically trigger other actions, cannot proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for justification.

Connectivity (of habitats). The linkage of similar but separated vegetation stands by patches, corridors or "stepping stones" of like vegetation. This term can also refer to the degree to which similar habitats are linked.

Consistency. All resource plans and permits, contracts and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System land must be consistent with the Forest Plan.

Consumptive Use. A use of resources that reduces the supply, such as logging and mining (See also non-consumptive use).

Contour. A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same elevation.

Corridor. Elements of the landscape that connect similar areas. Streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows where wildlife feed.

Cost-efficiency. The usefulness of specified inputs (costs) to produce specified outputs (benefits). In measuring cost efficiency, some outputs, including environmental, economic, or social impacts, are not assigned monetary values but are achieved at specified levels in the least cost manner. Cost efficiency is usually measured using present net value, although use of benefit-cost ratios and rates-of-return may be appropriate.

Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ). The Council issues regulations binding on all federal agencies, to implement the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Quality Act. The regulations address the administration of the NEPA process, including preparation of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for major federal actions which significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Cover. Any feature that conceals wildlife or fish. Cover may be dead or live vegetation, boulders, or undercut streambanks. Animals use cover to escape from predators, rest or feed.

Cover Class. Represents a percentage range for a fixed area covered by the crowns of plants. It is measured as a vertical projection of the outermost portion of the foliage.

Cover type (vegetation cover type). Stands of a particular vegetation type that are composed of similar species. The aspen cover type contains plants distinct from the pinyon-juniper cover type.

Crown Fire. A fire that advances from top to top of trees and shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire.

Cross-Country Motorized Travel.

Cultural Resource. The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by humans in the past -- historical or archaeological.

Cultural Sensitivity. Refers to the likelihood of encountering significant cultural volumes (quantity and/or quality) that may affect and may be affected by ground-disturbing activities.

Cumulative Actions. Actions which when viewed with other proposed actions have cumulatively significant impacts.

Cumulative Effects or Impacts. The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other action. Cumulative effects or impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Cycling. One of the ways functions are described; resources which are transported within the system (i.e., animal migration, nutrient cycling in a forest stand, snow melt becoming part of the surface or groundwater flow.)

Decision Criteria. The rules and standards used to evaluate alternatives to a proposed action on National Forest land. Decision criteria are designed to help a decision maker identify a preferred choice from an array of alternatives.

DEIS (Draft Environmental Impact Statement). The draft version of the Environmental Impact Statement that is released to the public and other agencies for review and comment.

Dependent Communities. Communities whose social, economic or political life would become discernibly different in important respects if market or non-market outputs from the National Forests were cut off.

Designated Corridor. A linear area of land with defined and recognized boundaries identified and designated by legal public notice.

Designated Routes.

Desired Future Condition (DFC). Land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved. The DFC provides the framework to select appropriate standards and guidelines.

Detrimental Soil Disturbance. The condition where established threshold values for soil properties are exceeded and result in significant change.

Developed Recreation. Recreation that requires facilities that, in turn, result in concentrated use of the area. For example, skiing requires ski lifts, parking lots, buildings and roads. Campgrounds require roads, picnic tables and toilet facilities.

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

Disturbance. Any event, such as a forest fire or insect infestation that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem.

Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan. See also "Edge," "Horizontal Diversity," and "Vertical Diversity."

Ecological Approach. Natural resource planning and management activities that assure consideration of the relationship between all organisms (including humans) and their environment.

Ecological Classification. A multifactor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels of resolution, areas of land and water having similar characteristic combinations of the physical environment (such as climate, geomorphic processes, geology, soil and hydrologic function), biological communities (such as plants, animals, microorganisms, and potential natural communities), and the human dimension (such as social, economic, cultural, and infrastructure).

Ecological Land Classification and Mapping. An hierarchical, multi-factor approach to categorizing and delineating, at different levels or resolution, areas of land having similar capabilities and potentials for management. These areas of land are characterized by unique combinations of the physical environment, biological communities and human dimension.

Ecological Process. The actions or events that link organisms (including humans) and their environment, such as disturbance, successional development, nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, productivity, and decay.

Ecological Status. The degree of similarity between the present community and the potential natural community on a site. Used to determine the ecological status of a plant community.

Ecological Type (Habitat Type). A category of land having a unique combination of potential natural community; soil, landscape, features, climate and differing from other ecological types in its ability to produce vegetation and respond to management. Used to define land capability.

Ecological Unit. The map unit developed for an ecological type or types. This unit often includes a complex of small and intricately associated ecological types too small to delineate separately.

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

Economic Efficiency Analysis. An analytical method in which incremental market and non-market benefits are compared with incremental economic costs.

Ecoregion. A continuous geographic area over which the macroclimate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites with similar properties. Ecoregions contain multiple landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems.

Ecoregion Code. Ecogeographic code that identifies land surface form and hydrologic unit maps of the U. S. by Bailey and Cushwa.

Ecosystem. An arrangement of living and non-living things and the forces that move among them. Living things include plants and animals. Non-living parts of ecosystems may be rocks and minerals. Weather and wildfire are two of the forces that act within ecosystems.

Ecosystem/Cover Type. The native vegetation ecological community considered together with non-living factors of the environment as a unit; the general cover type occupying the greatest percent of the stand location.

Ecosystem Health. The state of an ecosystem in which the structure and functions are sufficiently resilient, allowing the maintenance of biological diversity over time and through a range of disturbance.

Ecosystem Management. The use of an ecological approach to achieve productive resource management by blending social, physical, economic and biological needs and values to provide healthy ecosystems.

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

Ecozone. The transition zone between two biotic communities, such as between the Ponderosa pine forest type and the mixed conifer forest, which is found at higher elevations than the pine.

Edge. The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand, or a Douglas-fir stand next to an aspen stand.

Edge Contrasts. A qualitative measure of the difference in structure of two adjacent vegetated areas; for example, "low," "medium," or "high" edge contrast.

Edge Effect. The increased richness of plants and animals resulting from the mixing of two communities where they join.

Effects. Environmental consequences as a result of a proposed action. Included are direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, and indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but which are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related ti induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air, water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Effects and impacts as used in this statement are synonymous. Effects include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic quality, historic, cultural, economic, social or health whether direct, indirect or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effects will be beneficial (40 CFR 1508.8).

Element (of ecosystem). An identifiable component, process, or condition of an ecosystem.

Embeddedness. A rating of the degree that larger substrate particles (boulder, rubble or gravel) are surrounded or covered by fine sediment.

Endangered Species. Any species of animal or plant that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Plant or animal species identified by the Secretary of the Interior and endangered in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species Act. The Act which requires consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if practices on National Forest System lands may impact a threatened or endangered species (plant or animal).

Endemic plant/organism. A plant or animal that occurs naturally in a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited geographically.

Environmental Analysis. An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable long and short-term environmental effects. Environmental Analyses include physical, biological, social and economic factors.

Environmental Assessment. A brief version of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A statement of the environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives to it. It is required for major Federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and released to the public and other agencies for comment and review. It is a formal document that must follow the requirements of NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the project proposal.

Ephemeral Streams. Streams that flow only as the direct result of rainfall or snowmelt. They have no permanent flow.

Erosion. The wearing away of the land surface by wind or water.

Escape Cover. Vegetation of sufficient size and density to hide an animal, or an area used by animals to escape from predators.

Evaluation Criteria. Standards developed for appraising alternatives. (See decision criteria.)

Exclusion Areas. Areas having a statutory prohibition to rights-of-way for lineal facilities or corridor designation.

Exterior Fire Protection. The protection of structures from the exterior, with no interior access or activity.

Eyrie. A ledge along a cliff used for nesting peregrine falcons.

Facilities. Transportation planning, road management and operation, fleet equipment, and engineering services (for example, administrative buildings, water and sanitation systems, sanitary landfills, dams, bridges and communication systems.

Fauna. The animal life of an area.

Fine Filter Management. Management that focuses on the welfare of a single or only a few species rather than the broader habitat or ecosystem. (See coarse filter management.)

Fire Behavior. A manner in which fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

Fire Cycle. The average time between fires in a given area.

Fire Effects. The physical, biological and ecological impacts of fire on the environment.

Fire Management. All activities required for the protection of resources from fire and the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives.

Fire Management Plan. A specific area plan covering fire policy and objectives.

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

Fire Risks. The chance of fire starting as determined by the presence and activity of causative agents; a causative agent; a number related to the potential number of firebrands to which a given area will be exposed during the rating day (National Fire Danger Rating System).

Fisheries Classification. Water bodies and streams classed as either having a cold water or warm water fishery. Designation is dependent upon the dominant species of fish occupying the water.

Fisheries Habitat. Streams, lakes, and reservoirs that support fish, or have the potential to support fish.

Flood Plain. A lowland adjoining a watercourse. At a minimum, the area is subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in a given year.

Flora. The plant life of an area.

Forage. All browse and non-woody plants that are eaten by wildlife or livestock.

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

Foreground. The part of a scene or landscape that is nearest to the viewer.

Forest Roads and Trails. A legal term for Forest roads or trails that are under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

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

Forage Utilization. The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Forage is all browse and herbage that is available and acceptable to grazing animals.

Fragmentation. The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat, typically forest cover, but including other types of habitat. Habitat can be fragmented naturally or from forest management activities, such as clearcut logging.

Frost Heave. A land surface that is pushed up by the accumulation of ice in the underlying soil.

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

Fuel Arrangement. A general term referring to the spatial distribution and orientation of fuel particles within a natural setting.

Fuel Management. The treatment of fuels that would otherwise interfere with effective fire management or control. Fore instance, prescribed fire can reduce the amount of fuels that accumulate on the forest floor before the fuels become so heavy that a natural wildfire in the area would be explosive and impossible to control.

Fuel Model. Mathematical descriptions of fuel properties (e.g. fuel load and fuel depth) that are used as inputs to calculations of fire danger indices and fire behavior potential.

Fuel Reduction. Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control.

Fuel Treatment. Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g. lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, and burning).

Function. All the processes within an ecosystem through which the elements interact, such as succession, the food chain, fire, weather, and the hydrologic cycle.

Game Species. Any species of wildlife or fish that is harvested according to prescribed limits and seasons.

Geomorphic Processes. Processes that change the form of the earth, such as volcanic activity, running water, and glacial action.

Geomorphology. The science that deals with the relief features of the earth's surfaces.

GIS (geographic information systems). GIS is both a database designed to handle geographic data as well as a set of computer operations that can be used to analyze the data. In a sense, GIS can be thought of as a higher order map.

Goal. A concise statement that articulates 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 statement form the principal basis from which objectives are developed.

Goods and Services. The various outputs, including on-site users, produced from forest and rangeland resources.

Ground Fire. A fire that burns along the forest floor and does not affect trees with thick bark or high crowns.

Ground Water. The supply of fresh water under the earth's surface in an aquifer or in the soil.

Guidelines. An indication or outline (as by a government) of policy or conduct.

Habitat. The area where a plant or animal lives and grows under natural conditions.

Habitat Capability. The ability of a land area or plant community to support a given species of wildlife.

Habitat Diversity. A number of different types of wildlife habitat within a given area.

Habitat Diversity Index. A measure of improvement in habitat diversity.

Habitat Type. A way to classify land area. A habitat can support certain climax vegetation, both trees and undergrowth species. Habitat typing can indicate the biological potential of a site.

Healthy Ecosystem. An ecosystem in which structure and functions allow the maintenance of biological diversity, biotic integrity, and ecological processes over time.

Horizontal Diversity. The distribution and abundance of plant and animal communities or different stages of plant succession across an area of land. The greater the numbers of communities in a given area, the higher the degree of horizontal diversity.

Human Dimension. An integral component of Ecosystem Management that recognizes people are part of ecosystems, that people's pursuits of past, present and future desires, needs and values (including perceptions, beliefs, attitudes and behaviors) have and will continue to influence ecosystems and that ecosystem management must include consideration of the physical, emotional, mental, spiritual, social, cultural and economic well-being of people and communities.

Hydrologic Cycle. Also called the water cycle, this is the process of water evaporating, condensing, falling to the ground as precipitation, and returning to the ocean as run-off.

Hydrology. The science dealing with the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks and in the atmosphere.

Igneous Rock. Rocks formed when high temperature, molten mineral matter cooled and solidified.

Indicator Species. A plant or animal species related to a particular kind of environment. Its presence indicates that specific habitat conditions are also present.

Indigenous (species). Any species of wildlife native to a given land or water area by natural occurrence.

Induced Edge. An edge that results from the meeting of two successional stages of vegetative conditions within a plant community. These can be created by disturbance, i.e., grazing, timber harvest, fire, insect outbreaks.

Inherent Edge. An edge that results from the meeting of two plant community types. These often result from abrupt changes in soil type, topographic differences, geomorphic differences, and changes in microclimate.

Instream Flow. The quantity of water necessary to meet seasonal stream flow requirements to accomplish the purposes of the National Forests, including, but not limited to fisheries, visual quality, and recreational opportunities.

Integrated Pest Management. A process for selecting strategies to regulate pests in which all aspects of a pest-host system are studied and weighed. The information considered in selecting appropriate strategies includes the impact of the unregulated pest population on various resource values, alternative regulatory tactics and strategies, and benefit/cost estimates for these alternative strategies. A basic principle in the choice of strategy is that it be ecologically compatible or acceptable.

Interdisciplinary Team. A team of individuals with skills from different disciplines that focuses on the same task or project.

Intermittent Stream. A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from streams or from some surface source, such as melting snow.

Intermountain Region. The portion of the USDA Forest Service, also referred to as Region Four, that includes National Forests in Utah, Nevada, southern Idaho and southwestern Wyoming.

Irretrievable. Applies to losses of production, harvest or commitment of renewable natural resources. For example, some or all of the timber production from an area is irretrievably lost during the time an area is used as a winter sports site. If the use is changed, timber production can be resumed. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

Irreversible. Applies primarily to the use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans, such as soil productivity. Irreversible also includes loss of future options.

Issue. A point, matter or question of public discussion or interest to be addressed or decided through the planning process.

> Preliminary issue is an issue identified early in the scoping phase and is sometimes referred to as a tentative issue.
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> Significant issue is an issue within the scope of the proposed action which is used to formulate alternatives in an Environmental Analysis (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Kuchler Vegetation Types. Potential natural vegetation of the United States, classified by Kuchler.

Land-Aquatic Type Associations. Code numbers given to a mapped unit of land in which land forms, soils, vegetation and water have the dominating influence.

Land Class. The topographic relief of a unit of land. Land classes are separated by slope. This coincides with the timber inventory process. The three land classes used in the Forest Plan are defined by the following slope ranges: 0 to 35%, 36-55%, and greater than 55%.

Land Use Class. The predominant purpose for which an area is used, i.e., agricultural land, forest land, rangeland, wetland, urban and suburban, roads, railroads or utility corridor.

Landform. Any physical feature of the earth's surface having a characteristic, recognizable shape and produced by natural causes. Landform is one criteria used in determining the capability and suitability of lands to produce resources and accommodate management activities.

Landline. The boundary lines for National Forest land.

Landscape. A large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated due to factors such as geology, soils, climate, and human impacts. Landscapes are often used for coarse grain analysis.

Landscape Ecology. A study of the principles concerning structure, function and change of landscapes, and the use of these principles in the formulation and solving of problems; the body of knowledge pertaining to the structure, function and change of spatial patterns in ecosystems.

Landtype Associations. (LTAs) are groupings of landtypes or subdivisions of Subsections, based upon similarities in geomorphic process, geologic rock type, soil complexes, stream types, lakes, wetlands, and series, subseries, or plant association in vegetation communities. Repeatable patterns of soil complexes and plant communities are useful in delineating map units at this level. Names of LTAs are often derived from geomorphic history and vegetation community.

Land Use Planning. The process of organizing the use of lands and their resources to best meet people's needs over time, according to the land's capabilities.

Legal Notice. A notice of a decision, which can be appealed, that is published in the Federal Register or in the legal notice section of a newspaper of general circulation.

Lichen. Any of the various flowerless plants composed of fungi and algae, commonly growing in flat patches on rocks, trees, etc.

Life Zone. Areas of "belts" of land that have distinct plant and animal characteristics determined by elevation, latitude, and climate. When ascending a high mountain, you will pass through these life zones.

Litter. The freshly fallen or only slightly decomposed plant material on the ground. This layer includes foliage, bark fragments, twigs, flowers and fruit.

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

Macroinvertebrate Biotic Condition Index. An index that compares the tolerance or sensitivity to pollution of an existing community of macroinvertebrates to the predicted potential tolerance of a community of undisturbed conditions for a given stream. Generally reflects the condition of the aquatic ecosystem.

Management Action. Any activity undertaken as part of the administration of the National Forest.

Management Concern. An issue, problem or a condition which constrains the range of management practices identified by the Forest Service in the planning process.

Management Direction. A statement of multiple-use and other goals and objectives, the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining them.

Management Indicator Species. See MIS

Management Intensity. A management practice or combination of management practices and associated costs designed to obtain different levels of goods and services.

Management Practice. A specific action, measure, course of action or treatment.

Management Prescription. Management practices and intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to attain multiple-use and other goals and objectives.

Market-Value Outputs. Goods and services valued in terms of what people are willing to pay for them rather than go without, as evidenced by market transactions.

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

Mass Stability. The existing condition of the soil mantel related to the potential for land mass failure such as landslides, mud flows and debris slides.

Matrix. The least fragmented, most continuous pattern element of a landscape; the vegetation type that is most continuous over a landscape.

Maximum Modification. See "Visual Quality Objectives."

Micro climate. The climate of a small site. It may differ from the climate at large of the area due to aspect, tree cover (or the absence of tree cover), or exposure to winds.

Middleground. A term used in the management of visual resources, or scenery. It refers to the visible terrain beyond the foreground where individual trees are still visible but do not stand out distinctly from the stand.

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

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

Mission (of the USDA Forest Service). "To care for the land and serve people. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people.

Mitigate/mitigation. To lessen the severity. Actions taken to avoid, minimize or rectify the impact of a land management practice.

Modification. A visual quality objective; management activities may visually dominate the original characteristic landscape, but they must borrow from naturally established form, line, color or texture so that the activity blends with the surrounding area.

Monitoring. The determination of how well project or plan objectives have been met and how closely management practices should be adjusted. (See adaptive management.) There are three types of monitoring:

Implementation
Effectiveness
Validation

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

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the policy.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA). These are rules that require an integration of planning for National Forests and Grasslands, including the planning for timber, range, fish and wildlife, water, wilderness, recreation resources, together with resource protection activities, such as fire management, and the use of other resources, such as minerals.

National Forest System (NFS) Land. Federal lands that have been designated by Executive Order or statute as National Forests, National Grasslands, Purchase Units, and other lands under the administration of the Forest Service, including Experimental Areas and Bankhead-Jones Title III lands.

Natural Barrier. A natural feature, such as a dense stand of trees or downfall, that will restrict animal travel.

Natural Disturbance. See disturbance.

Natural Range of Variability. See Range of variability.

Natural Resource. A feature of the natural environment that is of value in serving human needs.

Nest Survey. A way to estimate the size of a bird population by counting the number of nests in a given area.

Net Public Benefits. An expression used to signify the overall long-term value to the Nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not. Net public benefits are

measured by both quantitative and qualitative criteria rather than a single measure or index. The maximization of net public benefits to be derived from management of units of the National Forest System is consistent with the principle of multiple-use and sustained-yield.

No Action Alternative. The most likely condition expected to exist in the future if management practices continue unchanged.

Non-consumptive Use. The use of a resource that does not reduce its supply; for example, non-consumptive uses of water include hydroelectric power generation, boating, swimming and fishing.

Non-game. Species of animals not managed for sport hunting.

Non-market-Valued Outputs. Goods and services not generally traded in the marketplace, but valued in terms of what reasonable people would be willing to pay for them rather than go without. Those obtaining the actual outputs do not necessarily pay what they would be willing to pay for them.

Non-point Source Pollution. Pollution whose source is not specific in location. The sources of discharge are dispersed, not well-defined, or constant. Rain storms and snow melt often make this type of pollution worse. Examples include sediments from logging activities, and runoff from agricultural chemicals.

Non-renewable Resource. A resource whose total quantity does not increase measurably over time, so that each use of the resource diminishes the supply.

Notice of Intent. A notice printed in the Federal Register announcing that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be prepared.

Nutrient Cycle. The circulation of chemical elements and compounds, such as carbon and nitrogen, in specific pathways from the non-living parts of ecosystems into the organic substances of the living parts of ecosystems, and then back again to the non-living parts of the ecosystem. For example, nitrogen in wood is returned to the soil as the dead tree decays; the nitrogen again becomes available to living organisms in the soil, and upon their death, the nitrogen is available to plants growing in that soil.

Objective. Objectives are expressed as specific actions that include a timing component for completion, generally defined in terms of when the Record of Decision is signed for the Plan.

Off-Road Vehicles (ORV's). Vehicles such as motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles.

Opportunities. Ways to address or resolve public issues or management concerns in the land and resource management planning process.

Optimum. A level of production that is consistent with other resource requirements as constrained by environmental, social, and economically sound conditions.

Organic Soil. Soil at least partly derived from living matter, such as decayed plant material.

Output. One of the ways functions are described; resources which leave a system, i.e., animals migrating out of an area, mass erosion, removal of commercial timber from an area.

Overstory. The upper canopy layer; the plants below comprise the understory.

Paleontological Resource. Any remains, trace or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved in the Earth's crust since some past geologic time.

Parent Material. The mineral or organic matter from which the upper layers of soil are formed.

Partial Retention. A visual quality objective which, in general, means human activities may be evident, but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Particulates. Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.

Patch. An area of homogenous vegetation, in structure and composition.

Percolation. Downward flow or infiltration of water through the pores or spaces of rock or soil.

Perennial Stream. A stream that flows throughout the year and from source to mouth.

Permitted Grazing. Grazing on a National Forest range allotment under the terms of a grazing permit.

Persons-At-One-Time (PAOT). A recreation capacity measurement term indicating the number of people who can use a facility or area at one time.

Planning Area. The area covered by a Regional Guide or Forest Plan.

Planning Corridor. A general broad linear area of land used to evaluate where a specific right-of-way could be placed.

Planning Period. The 50-year time frame for which goods, services, and effects were projected in the development of the Forest Plan.

Planning Regulations. The rules which guide land and resource management planning (Forest Plans) on the National Forests.

Plant Association. A potential natural plant community of definite floristic composition and uniform appearance.

Plant Community. A group of one or more populations of plants in a common spatial arrangement.

Plant Species. The major subdivision of a genus or subgenus of a plant being described or measured.

PNV. See present net value.

Policy. A guiding principle that is based on a specific decision or set of decisions.

Pool. A potion of the stream with reduced current velocity, often with water deeper than the surrounding areas, which is frequently used by fish for resting and cover.

Pool-Riffle Ratio. The ratio of the length or percent of pool habitat divided by the length or percent of riffle habitat.

Potential Natural Community. The biotic community that would be established if all successional sequences of its ecosystem were completed without additional human-made disturbance under present environmental conditions. Grazing by native fauna, natural disturbances, such as drought, floods, wildfire, insects and disease are inherent in the development of potential natural communities which may include naturalized non native species. The potential natural community and its environmental characteristics provide a reference standard to which existing seral communities can be related.

Potential Natural Vegetation. The vegetation that would exist today if man were removed from the scene and if the plant succession after his removal were telescoped into a single moment. The time compression eliminates the effects of future climatic fluctuations, while the effects of man's earlier activities are permitted to stand.

Practice (Also Management Practice). A specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment.

Predator. An animal at or near the top of food chains that lives by preying on other animals.

Pre-existing Use. Land use that may not conform to a zoning ordinance but existed prior to the enactment of the ordinance.

Prescribed Fire. Fire set intentionally in wildland fuels under prescribed conditions and circumstances. Prescribed fire can rejuvenate forage for livestock and wildlife or prepare sites for natural regeneration of trees.

Prescription. Management practices selected to accomplish specific land and resource management objectives.

Present Net Value. Also called present net worth. The measure of the economic value of a project when costs and revenues occur in different time periods. Future revenues and costs are "discounted" to the present by an interest rate that reflects the changing value of a dollar over time. The assumption is that dollars today are more valuable dollars in the future. PNV is used to compare project alternatives that have different cost and revenue flow.

Preservation. See "Visual Quality Objectives."

Presuppression. Activities in advance of fire occurrence to assure effective suppression action.

Primary Base Series. A topographic map series that includes culture, drainage, land net ownership, and contours and is prepared on a stable base film. The map series is used to produce Forest Service cartographic products used in managing National Forest System lands. Similar maps are available for other lands.

Primitive ROS (Recreation Opportunity Spectrum). A classification of wilderness and recreation opportunity. It is characterized by an essentially unmodified environment, where trails mail be present but structures are rare, and where it is highly probable to be isolated from the sights and sounds of people. (See ROS.)

Production. One of the ways functions are described; resource which are "manufactured" within the system (i.e., plant growth, animal reproduction, snags falling and becoming down woody material).

Production, Forage. Annual production of herbage, shrubs, woody vines, and trees which may provide food for grazing animals or harvested for feeding. Forage production is expressed in pounds per acre per year and is used to determine available food supply for grazing animals.

Productivity. The ability of an area to provide goods and services and to sustain ecological values; the growth rate of biomass per unit area, usually expressed in terms of weight or energy.

Production Potential. The capability of land or water to produce a given resource.

Program. When capitalized, the Renewable Resource Program required by the RPA. Generally, sets of activities or projects with specific objectives, defined in terms of specific results and responsibility for accomplishment.

Properly Functioning Condition. The condition of a resource or ecosystem at any temporal or spatial scale when they are dynamic and resilient to disturbances to structure, composition and processes of their biological or physical components.

Proposal. Exists at the stage in the development of an action when an agency is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative means of accomplishing a goal and the effects can be meaningfully evaluated.

Proposed Action. A proposal by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend or implement an action.

Public Access. An indication if the property is posted or restricted from public use.

Public Domain. The territory ceded to the Federal government by the original thirteen states, plus additions by treaty, cession, and purchase.

Public Issue. A subject or questions of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System.

Public Land. Land for which title and control rests with a government - federal, state, regional, county or municipal.

Public Participation. Meeting, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, responses to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the public about Forest Service planning and decisionmaking.

Purpose and Need. A statement which briefly specifies the underlying purpose and need to which the agency is responding in proposing the alternatives including the proposed action.

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

Range Allotment. See *Allotment*.

Range Management. The art and science of planning and directing range use intended to yield the sustained maximum animal production and perpetuation of the natural resources.

Range of Variability. (Natural Variability, Historical Variability.) The components of healthy ecosystems fluctuate over time. The range of sustainable conditions in an ecosystem is determined by time, processes such as fire, native species, and the land

itself. For instance, ecosystems that have a 10-year fire cycle have a narrower range of variation than ecosystems with 200-300 year fire cycles. Past management has placed some ecosystems outside their range of variability. Future management should move such ecosystems back toward their natural, sustainable range of variation.

Ranger District. The administrative sub-unit of a National Forest that is supervised by a District Ranger who reports directly to the Forest Supervisor.

Raptor. A bird of prey, such as an eagle or hawk.

Real Dollar Value. A monetary value that compensates for the effects of inflation.

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

Recreation Capacity. The number of people that can take advantage of any supply of recreation opportunity at any one time without substantially diminishing the quality of the experience.

Recreation Opportunity Class. An assessment of the general potential of the site for outdoor recreation. The following minimum number of classes are recognized:

Primitive - Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment with a high probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Semi-primitive - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment with a moderate probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man. Semi-primitive can be motorized or non-motorized.

Roaded Natural - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment with a low probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Rural - Area is characterized by a substantially modified natural environment with a low probability of experiencing isolation from the sights and sounds of man.

Urban - Area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural-appearing elements, i.e. ski resorts.

Recreation Types:

Developed Recreation. The type of recreation that occurs where modifications (improvements) enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area.

Dispersed Recreation. That type of recreation use that requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves

activities related to roads and trails. The activities do not necessarily take place on or adjacent to a road or trail, only in conjunction with it. Activities tend to be day-use oriented and include hunting, fishing, berrypicking, off-road vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, camping, viewing scenery, snowmobiling, and many others.

Recreation Visitor Day (RVD). Twelve visitor hours, which may be aggregated continuously, intermittently, or simultaneously by one or more persons.

Regionalization. A mapping procedure in which a set of criteria are used to subdivide the earth's surface into smaller, more homogeneous units that display spatial patterns related to ecosystem structure, composition, and function.

Regional Analysis Areas. Geographic areas within the Region that encompass several Forest or Grasslands.

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

Regulations. Generally refers to the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Chapter II, which covers management of the Forest Service.

Resilience. The ability of an ecosystem to return to or maintain diversity, integrity and ecological processes following disturbance.

Responsible Official. The Forest Service employee who has been delegated the authority to carry out a specific planning action.

Restoration. Actions taken to modify an ecosystem in whole or in part to achieve a desired condition.

Retention. A visual quality objective; management activities that are not visually evident; activities repeat form, line, color, and texture characteristics found in the landscape.

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

Riffle. A shallow rapids where the water flows swiftly over completely or partially submerged obstructions to produce surface agitation, but standing waves are absent.

Right-of-Way. An accurately located strip of land with defined width, point of beginning, and point of ending. It is the area within which the user has authority to conduct operations approved or granted by the landowner in an authorizing document, such as a permit, easement, lease, license, or Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Riparian Area. The area along a watercourse or around a lake or pond.

Riparian Ecosystem. The ecosystems around or next to water areas that support unique vegetation and animal communities as a result of the influence of water.

Road System. An alpha code indicating primary systems designation where primary indicates the system under which principle funding and management criteria for operation and maintenance of a road is derived.

ROD. Record of Decision. An official document in which a deciding official states the alternative that will be implemented from a prepared EIS.

ROS. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. The land classification system that categorizes land by its setting and the probable recreation experiences and activities it affords. (See Recreation Opportunity Class.)

RPA. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. Also refers to the National Assessment and Recommended Program developed to fulfill the requirements of this Act.

Run-off. The portion of precipitation that flows over the land surface or in open channels.

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

Scoping. The on-going process to determine public opinion, receive comments and suggestions, and determine issues during the environmental analysis process. It may involve public meetings, telephone conversations or letters.

Sensitive Species. Plant or animal species which are susceptible to habitat changes or impacts from activities. The official designation is made by the USDA Forest Service at the Region level and is not part of the designation of Threatened or Endangered Species made by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Sensitivity Level. A particular degree of measure of viewer interest in scenic qualities of the landscape. Three sensitivity levels are employed, each identifying a different level of user concern for the visual environment:

Level 1 - Highest Sensitivity
Level 2 - Average Sensitivity
Level 3 - Lowest Sensitivity

Seral. The stage of succession of a plant or animal community that is transitional. If left alone, the seral stage will give way to another plant or animal community that represents a further stage of succession.

Shade-Intolerant Plants. Plant species that do not germinate or grow well in shade.

Shade-Tolerant Plants. Plants that grow well in shade.

Significance. As used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity of effects.

Similar Actions. Actions, which when viewed with other reasonable foreseeable or proposed agency actions, have similarities that provide a basis for evaluating their environmental consequences together, such as timing or geography.

Sinuosity. The ratio of a stream's channel length to valley length.

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

Small Game. Birds and small mammals typically hunted or trapped.

Smoke Management. Application of fire intensities and meteorological processes to minimize degradation of air quality during prescribed fires.

Soil Compaction. A physical change in soil properties that results in a decrease in porosity and increase in soil bulk density and soil strength.

Soil Cover. The type of cover on the soil surface, i.e. live vegetation, litter, rock, pavement, exposed.

Soil Displacement. The movement of the forest floor (litter, duff, and humus layers) and surface soil from one place to another by mechanical forests such as a blade used in piling or windrowing. Mining of surface soil layers by disking, chopping, or bedding operation are not considered displacement.

Soil Drainage Class. Natural soil drainage refers to the rapidity and extent of the removal of water from the soil, in relation to incoming water. This is especially true of water by surface runoff and by flow through the soil to underground spaces. Soil drainage, as a condition of the soil, refers to the frequency and duration of periods when soil is free of saturation or partial saturation.

Soil Erosion Type. A classification system that further defines erosion by running water, wind or gravitational creep that is used to determine watershed condition.

Soil Map Unit. A named portion of a landscape shown by a closed delineation and symbol on a soil map. Generally used to assess or monitor watershed condition, site productivity, and site capability.

Soil Puddling. A physical change in soil properties due to shearing forces that alters soil structure and porosity. Puddling occurs when the soil is at or near liquid limit.

Soil, Severely Burned. A condition where most woody debris and the entire Forest floor is consumed down to bare mineral soil. Soil may have turned red due to extreme heat. Also, fine roots and organic matter are charred in the upper one-half inch of mineral soil.

Soil Structure. Structure is described by grade, class and type. Terms are used to describe the natural aggregates in the soil called "peds" in contrast to clods caused by disturbance, fragments by rupture of peds, and concentrations by local concentrations of compounds that irreversibly cement the soil grains together. The six structures, each with its own distinctive shape and arrangement, are: granular, platy, prismatic, columnar, angular blocky, subangular blocky, and structureless.

Soil Texture. Texture refers to the relative proportions of clay, silt and sand (less than 2mm in diameter). Clay particles are the smallest, silt particles are intermediate and sand particles are the largest. Loams contain various mixtures of the three basic particle sizes.

Soil and Water Conservation Practices (SWCPs). See BMP.

Soil Compaction. The reduction of soil volume. For instance, the weight of heavy equipment on soils can compact the soil and thereby change it in some ways, such as its ability to absorb water.

Soil Productivity. The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop. Productivity depends on adequate moisture and soil nutrients, as well as favorable climate.

Special Use Permit. A permit issued to an individual or group by the USDA Forest Service for use of National Forest land for a special purpose. Examples might be a Boy Scout Jamboree or a mountain bike race.

Standards. Requirements found in a Forest Plan that impose limits on natural resource management activities, generally for environmental protection.

State Air Quality Regulations. The legal base for control of air pollution sources in that State. Prescribed burning is generally covered under these regulations.

State Implementation Plan. A State plan that covers implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of primary and secondary standards in each air quality control Region, pursuant to section 110 of the Clean Air Act.

Stewardship. Caring for land and associated resources and passing healthy ecosystems to future generations.

Storage. One of the ways functions are described; resources which are conserved within the system (i.e., sediments and water retained in wetlands, carbon and other nutrient storage in down woody material).

Stream Order. A numbering scheme used to characterize the relative position of stream channels within a drainage. First-order streams are those which have no tributaries. Second-order streams are those which have as tributaries only first-order channels. Third-order streams are formed when two second-order channels come together. Stream order is used to analyze hydrologic response and fisheries.

Stream Type. Alpha-numeric identification given to reoccurring stream channel types based on measurable morphological features such as channel gradient, width/depth ratio, dominant particle size of bed and bank materials, entrenchment of channel and confinement of channel in valley, and landform features, soil erodibility, and stability.

Stream Width. The width of streams or rivers. Generally used to determine stream type, flood hazard, instream flows, and riparian management.

Streamflow. A measure of the volume of water passing a given point in a stream channel at a given point in time.

Stringer. A strip of vegetation different from surrounding vegetation, such as a stringer of aspen in an area of spruce.

Structure. How the parts of ecosystems are arranged, both horizontally and vertically. These parts include vegetation patches, edge, fragmentation, canopy layers, snags, down wood, steep canyons, rocks in streams, and roads. For example, structure might reveal a pattern, mosaic or total randomness of vegetation.

Subsections – A subsection is an ecological subdivision of land that has similar geology, lithology, geomorphic processes, soil groups, subregional climate, and potential natural communities.

Succession. The natural replacement, in time, of one plant community with another. Conditions of the prior plant community (or successional stage) create conditions that are favorable for the establishment of the next stage.

Successional Stage. A stage of development of a plant community as it moves from bare ground to climax. The grass-forbs stage of succession precedes the woody shrub stage and so on.

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

Suppression. The action of extinguishing or confining a fire.

Surface Fire. Fire that burns loose debris of the surface, which includes dead branches, leaves and low vegetation.

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

Suspended Sediment. Sediment which remains in suspension in the water for a considerable period of time without contact with the bottom of the water source and is generally recorded in parts per million or milligrams per liter.

Sustainability. The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Sustainable. The yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable.

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

Target. A National Forest's annual goal for accomplishment for natural resource programs. Targets represent the commitment of the Forest Service has with Congress to accomplish the work Congress has funded, and are often used as a measure of the agency's performance.

Threatened and Endangered Species Habitat. Those areas currently or potentially occupied or utilized by threatened and endangered species. T&E Species habitat generally falls into one of several categories: critical habitat, proposed critical habitat, occupied habitat, or potential habitat.

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

Time Since Disturbance. The number of years between when the most recent disturbance took place (stand history) and the current time that is used to determine successional trends. Elements include age of sprouts on stumps or damaged trees, color and condition of resin on the stump, stage of decay, bark tightness and tree age.

Treatment Area. The site-specific location of a resource improvement activity.

Trend. The direction of change in ecological status of a plant community usually expressed as moving "toward", "away from", or "not apparent".

Turbidity. A measure of the optical property that causes light to be scattered and absorbed rather than transmitted in straight lines.

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

Underburn. A burn by a surface fire that can consume ground vegetation and "ladder" fuels.

Understory. The trees and woody shrubs growing beneath the overstory in a stand of trees.

Use, allowable. An estimate of proper range use. Fifty percent of the annual growth is often used as a rule of thumb on ranges in good to excellent condition. It can also mean the amount of forage planned to be used to accelerate range rehabilitation.

Utility and Transportation Corridors. A strip of land, up to approximately 600 feet in width, designated for the transportation of energy, commodities, and communications by railroad, State highway, electrical power transmission (66 KV and above), oil and gas and coal slurry pipelines 10 inches in diameter or larger, and telecommunication cable and electronic sites for interstate use. Transportation of minor amounts of power for short distances, such as short feeder lines from small power projects including geothermal or wind, or to serve customer service substations along the line, are not to be treated within the Forest Plan effort.

Utilization. The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. May refer either to a single species or to the vegetation as a whole. When expressed in percent use, usually refers to a dry weight percentage of current years growth.

Variability. (Natural variability, historic variability, range of variability) The observed limits of change in composition, structure, and function of an ecosystem over time as influenced by frequency, magnitude and pattern of disturbance.

Variety Class. A way to classify landscapes according to their visual features. This system is based on the premise that landscapes with the greatest variety of diversity have the greatest potential for scenic value.

Vegetation Management. Activities designed primarily to promote the health of forest vegetation for multiple-use purposes.

Vegetation Type. A plant community with distinguishable characteristics.

Vegetative Structural Stage. A method of describing the growth stages of a stand of living trees or vegetation.

Vertical Diversity. The diversity in a stand that results from the complexity of the above-ground structure of the vegetation; the more tiers of vegetation or the more diverse the species makeup, or both, the higher the degree of vertical diversity.

Vertical Fuel Arrangement. Fuels above the ground and their vertical continuity, which influences fire reaching various vegetation strata.

Viable Population. A number of individuals of a species sufficient to ensure the long-term existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations adequately distributed throughout their region.

Visual Quality. Degree of obstruction or contrast degradation of viewing a scene due to air contaminants or weather.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's). A set of measurable goals for the management of forest visual resources used to measure the amount of visual contrast with the natural landscape caused by human activities. The following are VQOs:

1. Preservation -- Ecological change only here.
2. Retention -- Human activities should not be evident to the casual Forest visitor.
3. Partial Retention -- Human activity may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.
4. Modification -- Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, follow naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground.
5. Maximum Modification -- Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

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

Visual Resource Management Class. As assessment if the relative visual resource quality on National Forest system lands as it relates to potential resource use and/or development. (See Visual Quality Objectives).

Watershed. The entire region drained by a waterway (or into a lake or reservoir). More specifically, a watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the streamflow at that point.

Water Table. The upper surface of groundwater. Below it, the soil is saturated with water.

Water Uses. The status of water uses subject to State water laws that is used to determine the water uses and legal status of waters on the National Forests.

Water Yield. The run-off from a watershed, including groundwater outflow.

Wet Areas. Often referred to as "moist sites," they are very important components of elk summer range. These sites, often occurring at the heads of drainages, may be wet sedge meadows, bogs, or seeps.

Wetlands. Areas that are permanently wet or are intermittently covered with water.

Wilderness (Wilderness Area). Undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character, without permanent human habitation or improvements; It is protected and managed to preserve its natural condition. Wilderness Areas are designated by Congress.

Wildfire. Any wildland fire that is not a prescribed fire.

Wildfire For Resource Benefit. Naturally ignited fire that burns under specified conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and produce fire behavior and fire characteristics to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

Wildland/Urban Interface. The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

Wildlife and Fish User Days (WFUD). A 12-hour day in which a person participates in a wildlife- or fish-related recreation activity that used to determine the annual use of wildlife and fish resources by recreationists on the National Forests.

Wildlife Habitat Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a specific area.

ZOI (Zone of Influence). The areas influenced by Forest Service management activities.