



**FSH 1909.12 - LAND MANAGEMENT PLANNING HANDBOOK**

**Amendment No.:** The Directive Manager completes this field.

**Effective Date:** The Directive Manager completes this field.

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<b>New Document</b>	1909.12_contents	3 Pages
<b>Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date</b>	1909.12_Contents (Amendment 1909.12-92-1, 08/03/1992)	2 Pages

**Digest:**

1909.12 Contents - This handbook name has been changed from “Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook” to “Land Management Planning Handbook” and recoded from 1-digit chapters to 2-digit chapters.

10 - Changes the chapter title from “Land Management Plan” to “Assessment.”

20 - Changes the chapter title from to “Adaptive Planning Process” to “Land Management Plan.”

30 - Changes the chapter title from “Public Participation and Collaboration” to “Monitoring.”

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40 - Changes the chapter title from “Science and Sustainability” to Key Processes Supporting Land Management Planning.”

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<b>New Document</b>	1909.12_zero_code	xx Pages
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Zero\_code – Revises chapter in its entirety.

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This handbook provides procedural guidance for implementing land management planning direction for the 2012 planning rule (77 FR 21165, April 9, 2012). The primary use is for interdisciplinary team members and line officers responsible for planning.

### 01 - AUTHORITY

The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, as amended by the National Forest Management Act, and the implementing regulations found in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, part 219 establishes a process for developing, amending, and revising land management plans for units of the National Forest System (NFS). Further planning direction is set forth in FSM 1920. The full text of the 2012 Planning Rule is included as an exhibit in chapter 90 of this handbook.

### 04 - RESPONSIBILITY

The forest supervisor is responsible for developing, amending, or revising plans, except when the regional forester; the Chief; the Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment; or the Secretary acts as the responsible official under Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, section 219.2(b)(3) (36 CFR 219.2(b)(3)). See FSM 1920 for a broad description of line officer responsibilities.

### 05 - DEFINITIONS

Address. An individual's or entity's current mailing address used for postal service or other delivery services. An email address is not sufficient. (36 CFR 219.62)

Alaska Native Corporation. One of the regional, urban, and village native corporations formed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. (36 CFR 219.19)

Area of influence. An area influenced by the management of the plan area that is used during the land management planning process to evaluate social, cultural, and economic conditions. The area is usually a grouping of counties.

Assessment. For the purposes of this Handbook, an assessment is the identification and evaluation of existing information to support land management planning. Assessments are not decisionmaking documents, but provide current information on select topics relevant to the plan area, in the context of the broader landscape (36 CFR 219.19).

At-risk species. The set of at-risk species for planning purposes includes federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, and species of conservation concern.

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Best management practices for water quality (BMPs). Methods, measures, or practices selected by an agency to meet its nonpoint source control needs. BMPs include but are not limited to structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. BMPs can be applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters. (36 CFR 219.19)

Candidate species.

1. For U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service candidate species, a species for which the FWS possesses sufficient information on vulnerability and threats to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened, but for which no proposed rule has yet been published by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
2. For National Marine Fisheries Service candidate species, a species that is:
  - a. The subject of a petition to list and for which the National Marine Fisheries Service has determined that listing may be warranted, pursuant to section 4(b)(3)(A) of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1533(b)(3)(A)), or
  - b. Not the subject of a petition but for which the National Marine Fisheries Service has announced in the Federal Register the initiation of a status review (36 CFR 219.19).

Collaboration or collaborative process. A structured manner in which a collection of people, with diverse interests share knowledge, ideas, and resources, while working together in an inclusive and cooperative manner toward a common purpose. Collaboration, in the context of this part, falls within the full spectrum of public engagement described in the Council on Environmental Quality's publication of October, 2007: Collaboration in NEPA— A Handbook for NEPA Practitioners. (36 CFR 219.19)

Connectivity. Ecological conditions that exist at several spatial and temporal scales that provide landscape linkages that permit the exchange of flow, sediments, and nutrients; the daily and seasonal movements of animals within home ranges; the dispersal and genetic interchange between populations; and the long distance range shifts of species, such as in response to climate change. (36 CFR 219.19)

Conservation. The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments, ecological communities, and species. (36 CFR 219.19)

Conserve. For the purpose of meeting the requirements of 36 CFR 219.9, to protect, preserve, manage, or restore natural environments and ecological communities to potentially avoid federally listing of proposed and candidate species. (36 CFR 219.19)

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Consultation (in relation to the Endangered Species Act). See Formal Consultation and Informal Consultation.

Critical habitat. For a threatened or endangered species, (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act, on which are found those physical or biological features (a) essential to the conservation of the species, and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. (ESA §3(5)). Critical habitat is designated through rulemaking by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce.

Designated area. An area or feature identified and managed to maintain its unique special character or purpose. Some categories of designated areas may be designated only by statute and some categories may be established administratively in the land management planning process or by other administrative processes of the Federal executive branch. Examples of statutorily designated areas are national heritage areas, national recreational areas, national scenic trails, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, and wilderness study areas. Examples of administratively designated areas are experimental forests, research natural areas, scenic byways, botanical areas, and significant caves. (36 CFR 219.19)

Decision document. A concise public record of decision made in accordance with the policies and purposes of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that contains the elements specified in 40 CFR part 1505 Section 1505.2.

Decision memo. A concise written record of the responsible official's decision to implement an action that is categorically excluded from further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or environmental assessment (EA), where the action is one of a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment, and does not give rise to extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect. (36 CFR 219.62)

Disturbance. Any relatively discrete event in time that disrupts ecosystem, watershed, community, or species population structure and/or function and changes resources, substrate availability, or the physical environment. (36 CFR 219.19)



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Disturbance regime. A description of the characteristic types of disturbance on a given landscape; the frequency, severity, and size distribution of these characteristic disturbance types; and their interactions. (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecological conditions. The biological and physical environment that can affect the diversity of plant and animal communities, the persistence of native species, and the productive capacity of ecological systems. Ecological conditions include habitat and other influences on species and the environment. Examples of ecological conditions include the abundance and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, connectivity, roads and other structural developments, human uses, and invasive species. (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecological integrity. The quality or condition of an ecosystem when its dominant ecological characteristics (for example, composition, structure, function, connectivity, and species composition and diversity) occur within the natural range of variation and can withstand and recover from most perturbations imposed by natural environmental dynamics or human influence. (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecological sustainability. See sustainability.

Ecological system. See ecosystem.

Economic sustainability. See sustainability.

Ecosystem. A spatially explicit, relatively homogeneous unit of the Earth that includes all interacting organisms and elements of the abiotic environment within its boundaries. An ecosystem is commonly described in terms of its:

1. Composition. The biological elements within the different levels of biological organization, from genes and species to communities and ecosystems.
2. Structure. The organization and physical arrangement of biological elements such as, snags and down woody debris, vertical and horizontal distribution of vegetation, stream habitat complexity, landscape pattern, and connectivity.
3. Function. Ecological processes that sustain composition and structure, such as energy flow, nutrient cycling and retention, soil development and retention, predation and herbivory, and natural disturbances such as wind, fire, and floods.
4. Connectivity. (see connectivity above). (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecosystem diversity. The variety and relative extent of ecosystems. (36 CFR 219.19)

Ecosystem integrity. See ecological integrity.

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Ecosystem services. Benefits people obtain from ecosystems, including:

1. Provisioning services, such as clean air and fresh water, energy, food, fuel, forage, wood products or fiber, and minerals;
2. Regulating services, such as long term storage of carbon; climate regulation; water filtration, purification, and storage; soil stabilization; flood and drought control; and disease regulation;
3. Supporting services, such as pollination, seed dispersal, soil formation, and nutrient cycling; and
4. Cultural services, such as educational, aesthetic, spiritual, and cultural heritage values, recreational experiences, and tourism opportunities.

Endangered Species. Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range other than a species of the Class Insect determined by the Secretary to constitute a pest whose protection under the provisions of this Act would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man. [ESA §3(6)]

Environmental assessment (EA). A public document that provides sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a finding of no significant impact, aids an agency's compliance with the NEPA when no EIS is necessary, and facilitates preparation of a statement when one is necessary (40 CFR 1508.9; FSH 1909.15, chapter 40). (36 CFR 219.62)

Environmental document. For the purposes of this part: an environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, finding of no significant impact, categorical exclusion, and notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement. (36 CFR 219.19)

Environmental impact statement (EIS). A detailed written statement as required by section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (40 CFR 1508.11; 36 CFR 220). (36 CFR 219.62)

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (for Federally managed species as per 50 CFR 600, "Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions." For the purpose of interpreting the definition of essential fish habitat: "Waters" include aquatic areas and their associated physical, chemical, and biological properties that are used by fish and may include aquatic areas historically used by fish where appropriate; "substrate" includes sediment, hard bottom, structures underlying the waters, and associated biological communities, "necessary" means the habitat required to support a sustainable fishery and the managed

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species' contribution to a healthy ecosystem; and "spawning, breeding, feeding growth to maturity" covers a species full life cycle.

Even-aged stand. A stand of trees composed of a single age class. (36 CFR 219.19)

Federally recognized Indian Tribe. An Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian Tribe under the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a. (36 CFR 219.19)

Focal species. A small subset of species whose status permits inference to the integrity of the larger ecological system to which it belongs and provides meaningful information regarding the effectiveness of the plan in maintaining or restoring the ecological conditions to maintain the diversity of plant and animal communities in the plan area. Focal species would be commonly selected on the basis of their functional role in ecosystems. (36 CFR 219.19)

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. (36 CFR 219.19)

Formal comments. See substantive formal comments. (36 CFR 219.62)

Formal Consultation. A process between the FWS and/or NMFS and the Federal agency that 1) determines whether a proposed Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or destroy or adversely modify designated critical habitat; 2) begins with a Federal agency's written request and submittal of a complete initiation package; and 3) concludes with the issuance of a biological opinion by FWS and/or NMFS, that may include an incidental take statement by the FWS or NMFS. If a proposed Federal action may affect a listed species or designated critical habitat, formal consultation is required, except when the FWS or NMFS concurs, in writing, that a proposed action "is not likely to adversely affect" listed species or designated critical habitat. (50 CFR §402.02, §402.14)

Geographic area. A spatially contiguous land area identified within the planning area. A geographic area may overlap with a management area. (36 CFR 219.19)

Habitat type. A land or aquatic unit, consisting of an aggregation of habitats having equivalent structure, function, and responses to disturbance.

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Informal Consultation. An optional process that includes all discussions and correspondence between the FWS/NMFS and a Federal action agency or designated non-Federal representative, prior to formal consultation, to determine whether a proposed Federal action may affect listed species or critical habitat. (FSW and NOAA Fisheries Endangered Species Consultation Handbook)

Inherent capability of the plan area. The ecological capacity or ecological potential of an area characterized by the interrelationship of its physical elements, its climatic regime, and natural disturbances. (36 CFR 219.19)

Integrated resource management. Multiple use management that recognizes the interdependence of ecological resources and is based on the need for integrated consideration of ecological, social, and economic factors. (36 CFR 219.19)

Invasive Species. Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” The Forest Service relies on Executive Order 13112 to provide the basis for labeling certain organisms as invasive. Based on this definition, the labeling of a species as “invasive” requires closely examining both the origin and effects of the species. The key is that the species must cause, or be likely to cause, harm and be exotic to the ecosystem it has infested before we can consider labeling it as “invasive”. Thus, native pests are not considered “invasive”, even though they may cause harm. Invasive species infest both aquatic and terrestrial areas and can be identified within any of the following four taxonomic categories: Plants, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, and Pathogens. Additional information on this definition can be found in Executive Order 13112.

Landscape. A defined area irrespective of ownership or other artificial boundaries, such as a spatial mosaic of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, landforms, and plant communities, repeated in similar form throughout such a defined area. (36 CFR 219.19)

Lead objector. For an objection submitted with multiple individuals, multiple entities, or combination of individuals and entities listed, the individual or entity identified to represent all other objectors for the purposes of communication, written or otherwise, regarding the objection. (36 CFR 219.62)

Line officer. A Forest Service official who serves in a direct line of command from the Chief. (36 CFR 219.62)

Maintain. In reference to an ecological condition: To keep in existence or continuance of the desired ecological condition in terms of its desired composition, structure, and processes. Depending upon the circumstance, ecological conditions may be maintained by active or passive management or both. (36 CFR 219.19)

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**Management area.** A land area identified within the planning area that has the same set of applicable plan components. A management area does not have to be spatially contiguous. (36 CFR 219.19)

**Management system.** For the purposes of this Handbook, a timber management system including even aged management and uneven-aged management (36 CFR 219.19).

**Monitoring.** A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate effects of actions or changes in conditions or relationships. (36 CFR 219.19)

**Multiple use.** The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the NFS so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output, consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960 (16 U.S.C. 528–531). (36 CFR 219.19)

**Name.** The first and last name of an individual or the name of an entity. An electronic username is insufficient for identification of an individual or entity. (36 CFR 219.62)

**National Forest System.** Includes national forests, national grasslands, and the National Tallgrass Prairie. (36 CFR 219.62)

**Native knowledge.** A way of knowing or understanding the world, including traditional ecological and social knowledge of the environment derived from multiple generations of indigenous peoples' interactions, observations, and experiences with their ecological systems. Native knowledge is place based and culture-based knowledge in which people learn to live in and adapt to their own environment through interactions, observations, and experiences with their ecological system. This knowledge is generally not solely gained, developed by, or retained by individuals, but is rather accumulated over successive generations and is expressed through oral traditions, ceremonies, stories, dances, songs, art, and other means within a cultural context. (36 CFR 219.19)

**Native species.** An organism that was historically or is present in a particular ecosystem as a result of natural migratory or evolutionary processes; and not as a result of an accidental or deliberate introduction into that ecosystem. An organism's presence and

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evolution (adaptation) in an area are determined by climate, soil, and other biotic and abiotic factors. (36 CFR 219.19)

Natural range of variation (NRV). Spatial and temporal variation in ecosystem characteristics under historic disturbance regimes during a reference period. The reference period considered should be sufficiently long to include the full range of variation produced by dominant natural disturbance regimes, often several centuries, for such disturbances as fire and flooding and should also include short-term variation and cycles in climate. “Natural range of variation” (NRV) is a term used synonymously with historic range of variation or range of natural variation. The NRV is a tool for assessing ecological integrity, and does not necessarily constitute a management target or desired condition. The NRV can help identify key structural, functional, compositional, and connectivity characteristics, for which plan components may be important for either maintenance or restoration of such ecological conditions.

Newspaper(s) of record. The newspaper(s) of record is (are) the principal newspaper(s) of general circulation annually identified and published in the Federal Register by each regional forester to be used for publishing notices as required by 36 CFR 215.5. The newspaper(s) of record for projects in a plan area is (are) the newspaper(s) of record for notices related to planning. (36 CFR 219.62)

Objection. The written document filed with a reviewing officer by an individual or entity seeking pre-decisional administrative review of a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision. (36 CFR 219.62)

Objection period. The allotted filing period following publication of a public notice in the applicable newspaper of record (or the Federal Register, if the responsible official is the Chief) of the availability of the appropriate environmental documents and draft decision document, including a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision during which an objection may be filed with the reviewing officer. (36 CFR 219.62)

Objection process. Those procedures established for pre-decisional administrative review of a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision. (36 CFR 219.62)

Objector. An individual or entity who meets the requirements of section 219.53, and files an objection that meets the requirements of sections 219.54 and 219.56. (36 CFR 219.62)

Online. Refers to the appropriate Forest Service website or future electronic equivalent. (36 CFR 219.62)

Optional plan component. A plan may include goals as plan components. Goals are broad statements of intent, other than desired conditions, usually related to process or

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interaction with the public. Goals are expressed in broad, general terms, but do not include completion dates.

Participation. Activities that include a wide range of public involvement tools and processes, such as collaboration, public meetings, open houses, workshops, and comment periods. (36 CFR 219.19)

Persistence. Continued existence. (36 CFR 219.19)

Plan or land management plan. A document or set of documents that provide management direction for an administrative unit of the NFS developed under the requirements of this part or a prior planning rule. (36 CFR 219.19)

Plan area. The NFS lands covered by a plan. (36 CFR 219.19)

Plan components. Guide future project and activity decisionmaking. The plan must indicate whether specific plan components apply to the entire plan area, to specific management areas or geographic areas, or to other areas as identified in the plan. Every plan must include the following plan components:

1. Desired conditions. A description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates.
2. Objectives. A concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Objectives should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.
3. Standards. A mandatory constraint on project and activity decisionmaking, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.
4. Guidelines. A constraint on project and activity decisionmaking that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. (§ 219.15(d)(3)). Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain a desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.
5. Suitability of lands. Specific lands within a plan area will be identified as suitable for various multiple uses or activities based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The plan will also identify lands within the plan area as not suitable for



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uses that are not compatible with desired conditions for those lands. The suitability of lands need not be identified for every use or activity. Suitability identifications may be made after consideration of historic uses and of issues that have arisen in the planning process. Every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (§ 219.11).

Plan monitoring program. The plan monitoring program sets out the plan monitoring questions and associated indicators, based on plan components. The plan monitoring program informs management of resources on the plan area and enables the responsible official to determine if a change in plan components or other plan content that guide management of resources on the plan area may be needed.

Planning record. Includes documents that support analytical conclusions made and alternatives considered throughout the planning process. (36 CFR 219.14)(b)(2))

Plant and animal community. A naturally occurring assemblage of plant and animal species living within a defined area or habitat. (36 CFR 219.19)

Productivity. The capacity of NFS lands and their ecological systems to provide the various renewable resources in certain amounts in perpetuity. For the purposes of this Handbook, productivity is an ecological term, not an economic term (36 CFR 219.19).

Project. An organized effort to achieve an outcome on NFS lands identified by location, tasks, outputs, effects, times, and responsibilities for execution. (36 CFR 219.19)

Proposed Species. Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is proposed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service in the Federal Register to be listed under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. (36 CFR 219.19)

Public and governmental participation. Phrase used in this Handbook as shorthand for participation by all Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, other Federal agencies, State and local governments, public and private organizations and interested individuals. This can include people and government and non-governmental entities in other countries, for example, where plan areas are adjacent or proximate to international borders.

Recovery. For the purposes of this Handbook and with respect to threatened or endangered species: The improvement in the status of a listed species to the point at which listing as federally endangered or threatened is no longer appropriate (36 CFR 219.19).

Recreation opportunity. An opportunity to participate in a specific recreation activity in a particular recreation setting to enjoy desired recreation experiences and other benefits



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that accrue. Recreation opportunities include non-motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the air. (36 CFR 219.19)

Recreation setting. The social, managerial, and physical attributes of a place that, when combined, provides a distinct set of recreation opportunities. The Forest Service uses the recreation opportunity spectrum to define recreation settings and categorize them into six distinct classes: primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. (36 CFR 219.19)

Redundancy. The presence of multiple occurrences of ecological conditions such that not all occurrences may be eliminated by a catastrophic event.

Representativeness. The presence of a full array of ecosystem types and successional states, based on the physical environment and characteristic disturbance processes.

Responsible official. The official with the authority and responsibility to oversee the planning process and to approve a plan, plan amendment, and plan revision. (36 CFR 219.62)

Restoration. The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. Ecological restoration focuses on reestablishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to facilitate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems sustainability, resilience, and health under current and future conditions. (36 CFR 219.19)

Restore. To renew by the process of restoration. See restoration (36 CFR 219.19)

Reviewing officer. The USDA or Forest Service official having the delegated authority and responsibility to review an objection filed under this subpart. (36 CFR 219.62)

Riparian Areas. Three-dimensional ecotones [the transition zone between two adjoining communities] of interaction that include terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems that extend down into the groundwater, up above the canopy, outward across the floodplain, up the near-slopes that drain to the water, laterally into the terrestrial ecosystem, and along the water course at variable widths. (36 CFR 219.19)

Riparian management zone. Portions of a watershed where riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis, and for which plans include plan components to maintain or restore riparian functions and ecological functions. (36 CFR 219.19)

Risk. A combination of the likelihood that a negative outcome will occur and the severity of the subsequent negative consequences. (36 CFR 219.19)

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Scenic character. A combination of the physical, biological, and cultural images that gives an area its scenic identity and contributes to its sense of place. Scenic character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity. (36 CFR 219.19)

Social sustainability. See sustainability.

Sole source aquifer. Underground water supply designated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as the “sole or principle” source of drinking water for an area as established under section 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–3(e)). (36 CFR 219.19)

Source water protection areas. The area delineated by a State or Tribe for a public water system (PWS) or including numerous PWSs, whether the source is ground water or surface water or both, as part of a State or tribal source water assessment and protection program (SWAP) approved by Environmental Protection Agency under section 1453 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h–3(e)). (36 CFR 219.19)

Species of conservation concern. A species of conservation concern is a species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area. (36 CFR 219.9(c))

Stressors. For the purposes of this Handbook, actors that may directly or indirectly degrade or impair ecosystem composition, structure, or ecological process in a manner that may impair its ecological integrity, such as an invasive species, loss of connectivity, or the disruption of a natural disturbance regime (36 CFR 219.19).

Substantive formal comments. Written comments submitted to, or oral comments recorded by, the responsible official or his designee during an opportunity for public participation provided during the planning process (secs. 219.4 and 219.16), and attributed to the individual or entity providing them. Comments are considered substantive when they are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. (36 CFR 219.62)

Sustainability. The capability to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. For the purposes of this Handbook “ecological sustainability” refers to the capability of ecosystems to maintain ecological integrity; “economic sustainability” refers to the capability of society to produce and consume or otherwise benefit from goods and services including contributions to jobs and market and nonmarket benefits; and “social sustainability”

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refers to the capability of society to support the network of relationships, traditions, culture, and activities that connect people to the land and to one another, and support vibrant communities (36 CFR 219.19).

Sustainable recreation. The set of recreation settings and opportunities on the National Forest System that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable for present and future generations. (36 CFR 219.19)

Timber harvest. The removal of trees for wood fiber use and other multiple use purposes. (36 CFR 219.19)

Threatened Species. Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. (ESA §3(19))

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. (36 CFR 219.19)

Traditional Ecological Knowledge. See Native Knowledge.

Tribal consultation. A formal government-to-government process that enables Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations to provide meaningful timely input and, as appropriate, exchange views, information, and recommendations on Forest Service proposed policies or actions that may affect their rights or interests prior to a decision. Consultation is a unique form of communication characterized by trust and respect. (See FSM 1509.05)

Viable population. A population of a species that continues to persist over the long term with sufficient distribution to be resilient and adaptable to stressors and likely future environments. (36 CFR 219.19)

Watershed. A region or land area drained by a single stream, river, or drainage network; a drainage basin. (36 CFR 219.19)

Watershed condition. The state of a watershed based on physical and biogeochemical characteristics and processes. (36 CFR 219.19)

Wild and scenic river. A river designated by Congress as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System that was established in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 1271 (note), 1271–1287). (36 CFR 219.19)

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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). (36 CFR 219.19)

These areas include undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which:

1. Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;
2. Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
3. Has at least 5,000 acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
4. May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value. (16 USC 1131(c))