
GLOSSARY

A

accelerated erosion – Erosion at a rate greater than natural, usually associated with human activities that either reduce vegetative cover or increase surface runoff.

activity area – A land area impacted by a management activity, excluding specified transportation facilities and dedicated trails. Activity areas include harvest units within timber sale areas, prescribed burn areas, and grazing areas within range allotments (FSH 2509.18).

administrative unit – A National Forest, a National Grassland, a purchase unit, a land utilization project, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Land Between the Lakes, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, or other comparable unit of the National Forest System.

adverse effect – An undertaking is considered to have an adverse effect when the effect on a historic property may diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, or association.” Adverse effects include (but are not limited to): physical destruction, damage or alteration of the property; isolation of the property from or alteration of the character of the property’s setting when that character contributes to the property’s eligibility to the National Register; “introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property or alter its setting”; neglect of a property resulting in deterioration or destruction; or transfer, lease or sale of the property. Definition excludes effects mitigated through proper channels, rehabilitation of properties carried out in conformance to appropriate standards, and properties sold or otherwise transferred with adequate restrictions or conditions to ensure preservation.

airshed – The geographic area that, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air. A basic geographic unit in which air quality is managed.

allotment management plan (AMP) – A plan that identifies specific resource objectives for a grazing allotment. Grazing systems are developed and improvements identified to meet those objectives.

allowable sale quantity (ASQ) – The amount of timber that may be sold from suited timber land in a ten-year period.

all-terrain vehicle (ATV), quadricycle – Any self-propelled motor vehicle 50 inches wide or less, that travels on three or more low-pressure tires, has a seat or saddle upon which the operator sits, derives its motive power from any source other than muscle or wind, has a motor capable of producing not more than 50 horsepower, and is capable of being operated on a trail with a maximum tread width of 50 inches.

alternative – A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis. An alternative need not substitute for another in all respects.

anadromous – Moving from the sea to fresh water for reproduction. Chinook salmon and steelhead are anadromous fish.

animal unit month (AUM) – In range management, a unit of measure based on the amount of forage required by an animal unit for one month. An animal unit is a 1,000-pound cow and calf, or three sheep.

aquatic systems – Interaction of biological and physical components in a water-based environment.

archaeological resource – Any material remains of past human life or activities which are of archaeological interest, ... including, but not be limited to, pottery, basketry, bottles, weapons, weapon projectiles, tools, structures or portions of structures, pit houses, rock paintings, rock carvings, intaglios, graves, human skeletal materials, or any portion or piece of any of the foregoing items. [16 U.S.C. 470 bb]

archaeological site – A geographic locale that contains material remains of prehistoric and/or historic human activity.

area – A discrete, specifically delineated space that is smaller, and in most cases much smaller, than a Ranger District.

Area of Potential Effect – (APE) The geographic area or areas within which an action may cause changes in the character of historic or prehistoric properties (any property or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places), if any such properties exist. (36 CFR 800, Sec. 800.2).

B

bedload – Non-suspended sediment and gravel moved by water flowing along the bottom of stream channels.

below cost – A timber sale that costs more to prepare, sell, and administer than it returns in revenue.

beneficial use – An actual or potential use that may be made of the waters of the state that is protected against quality degradation. Beneficial uses can include domestic, agricultural, and industrial water supplies, recreation, aquatic life, esthetics, wildlife habitat, and salmon spawning.

best management practices (BMPs) – The set of practices that, when applied during implementation of a project, they can help minimize the effects of surface erosion and ensure that water-related beneficial uses are protected and that state water quality standards are met. BMPs can take several forms. State laws and regulations define some; others are defined by the forest interdisciplinary planning team for application forest wide, for application at the project level, and/or for application to specific management areas.

big game – Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

biological assessment – A documented Forest Service review of programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any federal listed and proposed species and proposed critical habitat that may be present in the action area.

biological diversity or biodiversity – The variety of life and its processes, including the variety in genes, species, ecosystems, and the ecological processes that connect everything in ecosystems.

biological evaluation – A documented Forest Service review of programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any sensitive species that may be present in the action area.

biological opinion – An official report by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued in response to a formal Forest Service request for consultation or conference. It states whether an action is likely to result in jeopardy to a species or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

biomass – The sum total of living plants and animals above and below ground.

biotic – Pertaining to any aspect of living components.

board foot – A measurement of wood equivalent to a board one foot square and one inch thick usually expressed in terms of thousand board feet (MBF) or million board feet (MMBF).

broadcast burn – Intentional burning of debris on a designated unit of land, where the fuel has not been piled or windrowed, by allowing fire to spread freely over the entire area.

bulk density – The density of soil. The weight of soil divided by the volume.

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 are undesirable. Buffers along streams can greatly reduce any changes or impacts to stream water quality, temperature, or channel stability.

C

canopy – The more or less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees and other woody growth. The part of any stand of trees represented by the tree crowns. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can also describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest.

cavity – A hole in a tree often used by wildlife, especially birds, for resting and reproduction.

ceded lands – This term was first used in a 1789 treaty. Since that time, many treaties have referred to land cessions made by tribes to the United States. Most federal agencies and Indian tribes prefer to use the term “ceded lands” when describing areas where a tribe did “...cede, relinquish, and convey to the U.S. all their right, title, and interest in the lands and country occupied by them.” (USDA Forest Service National Resource Book on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations 1997).

channel stability – The ability of a stream channel to resist the effects of natural and human-caused disturbance.

classified road – Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including state roads, county roads, privately owned roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36 CFR 212.1).

climate – Generalized statement of the prevailing weather conditions at a given place, based on statistics of a long period of record.

coarse woody debris – Snags, fallen trees, and decaying logs and large limbs distributed across the forest floor that are larger than 3 inches in diameter.

Code of Federal Regulations – (CFR) The official legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

Community Resource Unit (CRU) – The smallest human geography scale and depicts the “zone of influence” of individual communities characterized by face-to-face relations and informal caretaking systems using James Kent Associates methodology (www.naturalborders.com).

compaction – A physical change in soil properties that results when pore spaces are reduced in size and soil becomes denser. Compaction generally occurs when a load is applied to the soil, such as when heavy equipment makes several passes that compress the soil.

composition – The constituent elements of an entity, (i.e. the species that constitute a plant community).

condition class – Level of potential future risk to the watershed from accumulated live fuels.

consulting parties – Primary participants in the section 106 process, including agency officials, SHPO, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Indian tribes, and other parties with interest (including the public or groups), or who may have jurisdiction over properties that may be effected by an undertaking. (36 CFR 800, Sec. 800.1)

corridor – A defined tract of land, usually linear in shape, that enables species to travel between areas of suitable habitat. Corridors enlarge the habitat base for animals with large home ranges, provide for genetic exchange within or between populations, provide a route by which populations can move in response to environmental change, and allow for dispersal of individuals to maintain a well-distributed population.

cover – Vegetation (usually coniferous) that provides wildlife either protection from the elements (thermal cover) or protection from predators (hiding cover).

critical habitat – Areas designated for the survival and recovery of federally listed threatened or endangered species.

crown fire – A fire that advances through the canopy of a forest.

cultural resource – Sometimes referred to as Heritage Resources, these are the physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burials, pictographs, etc.) having scientific, archaeological, historic or social values.

cultural resources management – The range of activities aimed at understanding, preserving, and providing for the enjoyment of cultural resources. It includes research related to cultural resources, planning for actions affecting the, and stewardship of them in the context of overall agency operations and according to federal law.

cumulative effects – Those effects on the environment that result from the incremental effect of the action when added to the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

cut slope – That portion of the slope that is excavated in constructing roads, trails, landings, or skidtrails.

D

decommission – Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state. (36 CFR 212.1), (FSM 7703).

designated road, trail, or area – A National Forest System road, a National Forest System trail, or an area on National Forest System lands that is designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to § 212.51 on a motor vehicle use map.

desired future condition – In the forest plan, a concise but general description by resource of what the national forest should be like 50 years in the future. It is the resulting condition of meeting the goals and objectives by following the standards and guidelines of the forest plan.

developed recreation – Recreation that requires facilities that, in turn, result in concentrated use of the area. Examples of developed recreation areas are campgrounds and ski resorts.

diameter at breast height (DBH) – The diameter of a tree measured 4.5 feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree.

direct effects – Effects caused by an action and occurring at the same time and place.

disabilities – These impairments to an individual can be broken down into a number of broad sub-categories, which include the following:

- Sensory impairments, such as visual or hearing impairments.
- Cognitive impairments such as Autism or Down Syndrome.
- Mental disabilities such as learning disability, Alzheimer's disease, various phobias, depression, anxiety disorder, schizophrenia, etc.
- Self-care disabilities affecting one's ability to physically care for oneself without assistance.
- Physical impairments affecting movement, such as post-polio syndrome, spina bifida and cerebral palsy.

dispersed recreation – Recreation that does not occur in a developed recreation setting, requires few if any improvements, and may occur over a wide area. Examples of such activities include hunting, fishing, berry picking, off-road vehicle use, hiking, horseback riding, picnicking, camping, viewing scenery, and snowmobiling.

disturbance – A force that causes significant change in structure and/or composition of an ecosystem through events such as fire, flood, or wind.

diversity – (1) The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area. (2) The distribution of different plant and animal communities/species within the area covered by a Land and Resource Management Plan (36 CFR Part 219.3(g)).

down or downed logs – Fallen trees and large logs lying on the forest floor.

duff – The layer of partially and fully decomposed organic materials lying below the litter and immediately above the mineral soil. It corresponds to the fermentation and humus layers of the forest floor.

dwarf mistletoe – A parasitic plant that grows on many conifer tree species. It reduces tree growth and causes stress that may eventually contribute to the death of the tree. It spreads from one tree to another of the same species.

E

ecosystem – A complete, interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment (for example: a marsh, a watershed, or a lake). A naturally occurring, self-maintained system of varied living and non-living interacting parts that are self-organized into biophysical and social components.

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

ecological integrity – In general, ecological integrity refers to the degree to which the elements of biodiversity and the functions that link them together and sustain the entire system are complete and capable of performing desired functions; the quality of being complete; a sense of wholeness. Absolute measures of integrity do not exist. Proxies provide useful measures to estimate the integrity of major ecosystem components (forestland, rangeland, aquatic, and hydrologic). Estimating these integrity components in a relative sense across the analysis area helps to explain current conditions and to prioritize future management. Thus, areas of high integrity would represent areas where ecological functions and processes are better represented and functioning than areas rated as low integrity.

economic efficiency – A measure of how well inputs are used to achieve outputs when all inputs and outputs (including environmental) are identified and valued.

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

edge – The interface between watershed elements of different composition and structure, for example between an open clearcut and a closed-canopy forest.

effects – Physical, biological, social, and economic results (expected or experienced) resulting from natural events or management activities. Effects can be direct, indirect, and/or cumulative.

elk management unit (EMU) – A geographical analysis unit that represents an elk's movements and home range. Elk management units are made up of smaller units called Issue Reporting Areas (IRAs).

embeddedness – The amount of stream channel material or substrate that is covered by sand and silt.

emission – A release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.

endangered species – Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This does not include a species of the Class Insecta determined by the Secretary to be a pest whose protection under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to humans.

environmental analysis – An investigation of a proposed action and alternatives to that action and their direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts.

ephemeral stream – A stream that flows only as the direct result of rainfall or snowmelt.

erosion – A process of weathering, solution, corrosion, and transportation of soil and rock material by ice, water, wind, or gravity.

F

federal recognition or federally recognized tribe – The acknowledgement of an Indian tribe as a government entity that has a special relationship with the U.S. Government. This relationship recognizes that Indian tribes receive

some benefits or reserve some rights not available to other citizens: for example... off-reservation hunting and fishing rights related to treaties with tribal governments.... (USDA Forest Service National Resource Book on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations 1997).

fill slope – The sloping earth surface on the downhill side of a road resulting from roadway excavation.

fine fuels – Cured grass, leaves, needles, twigs, and small branches that ignite easily and carry fire rapidly.

fine sediment – Or surface fines. Mineral and organic particles smaller than 6.3 millimeters in diameter.

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

fire return interval – The average time between wildfires in a given ecosystem.

fire severity – A qualitative term used to describe the relative effect of fire on an ecosystem, especially the degree of organic matter consumption and soil heating. Fires are commonly classed as low, moderate, and high severity. Fire severity may or may not be closely related to fire intensity, and this term is often called burn severity.

floodplain – The area adjacent to the active stream channel that is inundated during flows that exceed bankfull level. The floodplain acts as an energy dispersion zone during flood flows, and functions as an area of deposition.

forage – Plant material (usually grasses, forbs, and brush) that is available for animal consumption.

forbs – Broadleaf ground vegetation with little or no woody material.

foreground – For visual quality, the area generally seen within one-quarter mile of a viewer's position.

forest – Land at least 10 percent stocked (based on crown cover) by forest trees of any size, or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use.

forest plan – A document that guides all natural resource management activity and establishes management standards and guidelines for a national forest, embodying the provisions of the National Forest Management Act (1976).

forest road – A road wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System and necessary for the protection, administration, use, and development of national forest resources.

forest trail – A trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

forest transportation atlas – A display of the system of roads, trails, and airfields of an administrative unit.

forest transportation facility – A forest road or trail or an airfield that is displayed in a forest transportation atlas, including bridges, culverts, parking lots, marine access facilities, safety devices, and other improvements appurtenant to the forest transportation system.

forest transportation system – The system of National Forest System roads, National Forest System trails, and airfields on National Forest System lands.

fragmentation – The splitting or isolating of patches of similar habitat. Habitat can be fragmented by natural events or development activities.

fry – Juvenile fish less than 1 year old.

fuel – Any substance or composite mixture (including woody and other vegetative material) susceptible to ignition and combustion.

fuel break – Any natural or constructed barrier utilized to segregate, stop, and control the spread of fire or to provide a control line from which to work.

fuel groups – Fuel properties that have become known as fuel models and can be organized into four groups: grass, shrub, timber, and slash.

fuel load – The dry weight of combustible materials per unit area; usually expressed as tons per acre.

fuel management – The planned manipulation and/or reduction of living or dead forest fuels for forest management and other land-use objectives.

fuel model – A quantitative basis for rating fire danger and predicting fire behavior. The mathematical models require descriptions of fuel properties as inputs to calculations of fire danger indices or fire behavior potential.

G

geographic information system (GIS) – A computer system that stores and manipulates spatial (mapped) data.

granitics – (1) Soils derived from granite. (2) Pertaining to relatively coarse-ground, light colored rocks.

ground cover – All vegetative material as well as rock and rock fragments that are in contact with ground.

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

H

habitat – (1) A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are food, water, cover, and living space. (2) The place where a plant or animal lives and grows under natural conditions.

habitat type – (1) A distinct assemblage of plants and animals occupying a given area that can be distinguished from surrounding areas on the basis of certain identifiable characteristics, including environmental conditions. (2) An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax. The collective area which one plant association occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances.

hazard fuel loadings – Debris generated from any activity (such as timber harvest) that increases fire potential.

hazard reduction – In fuel management, the planned treatment or manipulation of naturally growing vegetation or any other flammable material for the purpose of reducing the rate of spread and the output of heat energy from any wildfire occurring in the area treated.

hiding cover – Vegetation that can hide 90 percent of an adult elk from human view at a distance of 200 feet or less.

highway legal vehicle – Any motor vehicle that is licensed or certified under state law for general operation on all public roads in the state. Operators of highway legal vehicles are subject to state traffic law, including requirements for operator licensing.

historic context – An organizing structure for interpreting history that groups information about historic properties that share a common theme, common geographical area, and a common time period. The development of historic contexts is a foundation for decisions about the planning, identification, evaluation, registration and treatment of historic properties, based upon comparative historic significance. (National Register Bulletin 15).

historic integrity – The unimpaired ability of a (historic) property to convey its historical significance (National Register Bulletin 15)

historic landmark – A National Historic Landmark and is a district, site, building, structure or object, in public or private ownership, judged by the Secretary of the Interior to possess national significance in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering and culture, and so designated by the Secretary. (36CFR65) National Historic Landmarks are afforded special review status under the NHPA.

historic property – or “historic resource” means any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, landscape or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in the National Register, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource. [NHPA Section 301]

historic significance – Refers to the quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and (a) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or (b) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or (c) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (d) that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (36CFR60). Property that meets National Register of Historic Places criterion by consensus determination with SHPO or determination of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. Sometimes referred to as “Capital H” Historic site.

historical range of variability (HRV) – As defined by ICBEMP: the natural fluctuation of components of healthy ecosystems over time. The range of conditions and processes that likely occurred prior to settlement of the analysis area by people of European descent (approximately the mid-1800s, which would have varied within certain limits over time). Historical conditions and processes include such variables as: forest and range vegetation types, compositions, and structures; fish and wildlife habitats and populations; and fire regimes. For purposes of comparison to current conditions, historical conditions represent an estimated mid-point within historical range of variability. HRV is a reference point to establish a baseline of conditions for which sufficient scientific and historical information is available to enable comparison to current conditions. See also Range of Variability.

Human Resource Units (HRU) – The units that show the functioning social and economic unit of human geography using James Kent Associates methodology (www.naturalborders.com).

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.

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) – A hierarchical coding system developed by the U.S. Geological Service to identify geographic boundaries of watersheds of various sizes.

I

Indian tribe – An Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian tribe pursuant to Pub. L. No. 103454, 108 Stat. 4791, and “Indian” refers to a member of such an Indian tribe [EO13007][EO13175]

indirect effects – Impacts caused by an action but occurring later in time or farther removed in distance.

integrity, aspects of – With regard to National Register of Historic Places qualification, aspects of integrity include a resource’s setting, feeling, design, materials, workmanship, use, and, location. Collectively, with regard to historic period sites, these attributes are often referred to as “historic character.”

interdisciplinary team – Agency specialists assembled to analyze the effects of a potential decision or actions on national forest resources.

interest-based community – A community of people who share a common interest in work, leisure or other values such as a club, occupational category or church. They sometimes cannot be easily defined by a particular geographical area.

intermittent stream – A stream that flows at certain times of the year in response to high ground water levels or surface sources such as melting snow.

invasive – A species that displays rapid growth and spread allowing it to establish over large areas.

invasive plants – An alien plant species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13122, 2/3/99). See also noxious weeds.

irretrievable commitments – Losses of production or use for a period of time. An example is suited timber land being used for a skidtrail. Timber growth on the land is irretrievably lost while the land is a skidtrail, but the timber resource is not irreversibly lost because the land could grow trees again in the near future.

irreversible commitments – Permanent or essentially permanent resource uses or losses that cannot be reversed, except in the extreme long-term. Examples include minerals that have been extracted or soil productivity that has been lost.

isolated cabin – Privately owned isolated recreation cabins located on national forest land and authorized by special use permit located on sites not planned or designated for recreational cabin purposes.

issue – A problem or subject of concern raised by the public or by agency employees during scoping. Issues important to the decision at hand are analyzed in the DEIS.

L

ladder fuels – Grass, brush, small trees, and dead limbs that allow a ground fire to climb into the crowns of trees.

landform – A topographic pattern of a particular landscape that exists as a result of geologic activity and geomorphic processes. For example, a mountain, valley, ridge, or basin.

landscape – An area composed of interacting and interconnected patterns of habitats (ecosystems) that are repeated because of geology, landform, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout the area.

landslide prone – Landslide-prone refers to land that has a probability of mass movement occurring greater than or equal to 10 percent during a period of 100 years.

landtype – A grouping of lands or portion of the landscape that have defined characteristics of similar origin, composition, structure, and function with predictable behavior.

landtype association – A grouping of landtypes that are similar in general surface configuration and origin.

lifeways – The manner and means by which a group of people lives; their way of life. Components include language(s), subsistence strategies, religion, economic structure, physical mannerisms, and shared attitudes.

listed species – Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant officially designated as endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior of Commerce. Listed species are documented in 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12.

lithic scatter – An arrangement of lithics (stone tools, debitage) that occur on the surface of a site, either alone or in conjunction with other features of a site. A lithic scatter is the result of prehistoric stone tool manufacturing.

M

maintenance level 1 roads - These are roads that have been placed in storage between intermittent uses. The period of storage must exceed 1 year. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to prevent damage to adjacent resources and to perpetuate the road for future resource management needs. Emphasis is normally given to maintaining drainage facilities and runoff patterns. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are “prohibit” and “eliminate” all traffic. These roads are not shown on motor vehicle use maps. Roads receiving level 1 maintenance may be of any type, class, or construction standard, and may be managed at any other maintenance level during the time they are open for traffic. However, while being maintained at level 1, they are closed to vehicular traffic but may be available and suitable for non-motorized uses. (FSH 7709.59, 62.32)

maintenance level 2 roads - Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic, user comfort, and user convenience are not considerations. Warning signs and traffic control devices are not provided with the exception that some signing, such as W-18-1 “No Traffic Signs,” may be posted at intersections.

Motorists should have no expectations of being alerted to potential hazards while driving these roads. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Log haul may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to: discourage or prohibit passenger cars, or accept or discourage high clearance vehicles. (FSH 7709.59, 62.32)

maintenance level 3 roads – Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) is applicable. Warning signs and traffic control devices are provided to alert motorists of situations that may violate expectations. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed with single lanes and turnouts. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either “encourage” or “accept.” “Discourage” or “prohibit” strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users. (FSH 7709.59, 62.32)

maintenance level 4 roads – Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is applicable. The most appropriate traffic management strategy is “encourage.” However, the “prohibit” strategy may apply to specific classes of vehicles or users at certain times. (FSH 7709.59, 62.32)

maintenance level 5 roads – Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices is applicable. The appropriate traffic management strategy is “encourage.” (FSH 7709.59, 62.32)

management area – An area of land with similar management goals and a common management prescription, as described in the forest plan.

management indicator species (MIS) – Representative species whose condition and population changes are used to assess the impacts of management activities on similar species in a particular area.

mature timber – Trees that have attained full development, especially height, and are in full seed production.

merchantable (timber) – Meeting standards for minimum size and soundness.

middleground – For visual quality, the area generally seen from one-quarter mile to 3 miles of a viewer’s position.

mitigation – Actions that avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify impacts from management practices.

mixed conifer – Stands composed of a mixture of tree species, primarily ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, grand fir, and to a lesser extent western larch, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce.

mixed use roads – Existing roads that allow highway legal vehicles and non-highway legal vehicles to travel on them at that same time. Also referred to as motorized mixed use roads.

mixed use trails – Existing trails which were designed and constructed for non-motorized uses; however, motor vehicle use is permitted. Trails are maintained for non-motorized uses although motor vehicles may use the trail.

monitoring – The process of collecting information to evaluate if objective and anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

mortality (stand) – The number or volume of trees that died because of fire, insects, disease, climatic factors, or competition from other trees or vegetation.

motorcycle – A motorized trail vehicle with two wheels (one behind the other) with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator, 40 inches wide or less, capable of being operated on a single-track trail with a maximum tread width of 18 inches, and deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

motorized over-snow vehicle – Includes all types of self-propelled motor vehicles designed exclusively for travel on or immediately over snow. This includes such vehicles as snowmobiles and snow coaches. It may also include vehicles such as tracksters and air-cushioned vehicles if they are designed exclusively for operation on snow. The

definition is intended to apply to any type of motorized transportation that is designed solely to be used to travel above the ground surface on a cushion of snow, and does not include conversion of motorized wheeled vehicles. The vehicle may derive its motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

motorized wheeled vehicle – Includes all types of self-propelled motorized wheeled vehicles capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land or other natural terrain, and deriving its motive power from any source other than muscle or wind. This includes such vehicles as motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, monster trucks, etc. It includes those vehicles that have the driving wheels moving inside endless tracks, or capable of conversion to such method of travel. It also includes those vehicles that travel on a cushion of air between the vehicle and ground surface. The definition is intended to apply to any type of motorized transportation that is capable of being used on dry land, and that comes in contact with the ground surface. It does not include any wheelchair or mobility device for use by a mobility-impaired person.

motor vehicle – Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than: (1) A vehicle operated on rails; and (2) Any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.

motor vehicle use map (MVUM) – A map reflecting designated roads, trails, and areas on an administrative unit or a ranger district of the National Forest System.

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Requires environmental analysis and public disclosure of federal actions.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process – An interdisciplinary process, mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, which concentrates decision-making around issues, concerns, and alternatives, and the effects of those alternatives on the environment.

National Forest Management Act – A law passed in 1976 amending the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, which requires the development of regional and forest plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

National Forest System – All national forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States; all national forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means; the National Grasslands and land utilization projects administered under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (50 Stat. 525, 7 U.S.C. 1010-1012); and other lands, waters, or interests therein which are administered by the Forest Service or are designated for administration through the Forest Service as a part of the system.

National Forest System road – A forest road other than a road which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority.

National Forest System trail – A forest trail other than a trail which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – A formal list established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The register is maintained by the National Park Service and lists archaeological, historic, and architectural properties.

neotropical migratory birds (NTMB) – Birds that breed in Canada and the United States and winter in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.

no action alternative – An alternative where no activity would occur, or where current management practices would continue unchanged. The development of a no action alternative is requested by regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1502.14). The no action alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives.

non-classified roads – Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization.

non-forest land – Land that has never supported forests, and land formerly forested where timber production is precluded by development or other uses.

non-highway legal vehicle – Any motor vehicle that is not licensed or certified under state law for general operation on all public roads in the state.

noxious weeds – “Any living stage (including but not limited to, seeds and reproductive parts) of any parasitic or other plant of a kind, or subdivision of a kind, which is of foreign origin, is new to or not widely prevalent in the United States, and can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, livestock, or poultry or other interests of agriculture, including irrigation, or navigation or the fish and wildlife resources of the United States or the public health” (Pub. L. 93-629, January 3, 1975, Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974). See also invasive species.

O

obliteration – See “decommission.”

old growth – A forest habitat that has reached the late stages of development. Other characteristics include large-diameter trees, two or more canopy layers, dead standing and downed trees, and small openings.

off-highway vehicle (OHV) – Any motor vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

open road – An imprint on the land made for or by a four-wheel vehicle greater than 50 inches wide that will exist for longer than one year and is available for public use.

open road density – Miles of open road per square mile.

over-snow vehicle – A motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis, while in use over snow.

P

perennial stream – a stream that usually flows yearlong, except during periods of extreme drought. It has well-defined channels and shows signs of washing and scouring.

permittee – Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other business entity and any federal, state or governmental entity or agency who has received a special use permit to conduct activities on the national forest.

pictograph – A design drawn with pigment (paint) on a rock surface.

place-based community – A community of people who are bound together because of where they reside, work or visit. Such a community can be any geographically-specific place such as a town, county, watershed or other identifiable location.

prescribed fire – A fire burning under specified conditions that will accomplish certain planned objectives. The fire may result from planned or unplanned ignitions.

present net value – The difference between the discounted value of all benefits and the discounted value of all costs over the analysis period. PNV is used to compare project alternatives that have different cost and revenue flows.

prescription – A management pathway to achieve a desired objective(s)

private road – A road under private ownership authorized by an easement to a private party, or a road that provides access pursuant to a reserved or private right.

programmatic agreement – (PA) This is a historic preservation document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the potential adverse effects of a federal agency program, complex undertaking or other situations in accordance with the Section 106 review under NHPA [36CFR800.14(b)].

project area – The preliminary outline of a proposed action or activity that is in the planning stages.

project record – More detailed documentation of an environmental analysis, located in the relevant Forest Service Office.

proposed action – The project, activity, or action that a federal agency intends to implement or undertake and which is the subject of an environmental analysis.

public road – Any road or street under the jurisdiction of, and maintained by, a public authority and open to public travel (23 U.S.C. 101 (a)).

R

range allotment – A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under a range allotment management plan. It is the basic land unit used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System lands and associated lands administered by the Forest Service.

rangeland – Land on which the climax vegetation (potential natural plant community) is predominantly grasses, grass like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing. It includes natural grasslands, savannas, many wetlands, some deserts, tundra, and certain forb and shrub communities. It also includes areas seeded with native or adapted/introduced plant species that are managed as if they are native vegetation.

range of variation – The range of sustainable conditions in an ecosystem that is determined by time, processes, native species, and the land itself. The components of functioning ecosystems naturally fluctuate over time, but they generally fluctuate within a natural or historic range of variation. As some components move toward or beyond the limits of that range, other components are affected as well, because they have evolved over time to interact within a limited range of conditions. These resulting changes can be dramatic, and can affect the composition, structure, and function of ecosystems over the short and long term. See also Historical Range of Variability (HRV).

RARE I and RARE II – Abbreviations for the Roadless Area Review and Evaluations 1 and 2 that were conducted in 1972 and 1977 to 1979, respectively. Both were nationwide planning efforts the Forest Service conducted to resolve the roadless area issue. RARE I was abandoned after legal action showed non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. In 1980 RARE II was found to be legally insufficient in a lawsuit (California vs. Bergland).

reach – An unbroken stretch, as with a stream.

real income – The income of an individual, group, or country adjusted for inflation.

recontour – To move soil back (usually with mechanical or hand tools) to a previous condition thus making an area blend with the natural landscape.

recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) – A classification system that categorizes land by its setting and the probable recreation experiences and opportunities it provides. The spectrum runs from primitive, to semi-primitive non-motorized, to semi-primitive motorized, to roaded natural, to rural, to urban in levels of development. A primary determinant for these classes is whether or not the setting allows motorized use, and the proximity of the nearest motorized use.

recreation residence – Privately owned recreation cabins authorized by special use permit on National Forest System land that occupy planned, approved tracts or those groups of tracts established for recreation residence use.

recreation visitor day (RVD) – Twelve hours of recreation use in any combination of persons and hours (one person for 12 hours, or 3 persons for 4 hours, etc.).

reforestation – The renewal of forest cover by seeding, planting, or natural means.

regeneration – The re-establishment of trees, either naturally or by planting. This term may also refer to the young trees themselves, also called reproduction.

research natural area – Part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands.

reservoir – A human-made basin used to collect and hold water. Generally with a sufficient summer water source to maintain a usable water supply throughout the year.

restoration – (1) Holistic actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve desired, healthy, and functioning conditions and processes. Generally refers to the process of enabling the system to resume its resiliency to disturbances. (2) The process of restoring site conditions as they were before a land disturbance.

restore – Management emphasis designed to move ecosystems to desired conditions and processes, and/or to healthy forestlands, rangelands, and aquatic systems; a variety of management-induced activities dominate the landscape. Generally, “restore” strategies are applied to areas of moderate to low ecological integrity.

riparian – Pertaining to land that is next to water, where plants are dependent on a perpetual source of water.

riparian habitat conservation area (RHCA) – The banks and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps and springs whose waters provide soil moisture sufficiently in excess of that otherwise available locally so as to provide a more moist habitat than that of contiguous flood plains and uplands.

riparian ecosystems – (1) Those assemblages of plants, animals, and aquatic communities whose presence can be either directly or indirectly attributed to factors that are water influenced or related. (2) Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations, identified by soil characteristics, and distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water.

riparian vegetation – Plant communities dependent upon the presence of free water near the ground surface (high water).

road – A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary.

road construction or reconstruction – Supervising, inspecting, actual building, and incurrence of all costs incidental to the construction or reconstruction of a road.

road improvement – Activities that result in an increase of an existing road’s traffic service level, expand its capacity, or change its original design function.

road maintenance – The ongoing upkeep of a road necessary to retain or restore the road to the approved road management objective.

road obliteration – A form of road decommissioning that re-contours and restores natural slopes.

road realignment – Activity that results in a new location of an existing road or portions of an existing road and treatment of the old roadway.

road reconstruction – Activity that results improvement or realignment of an existing classified road.

road vehicle – (or highway vehicle) a self-propelled motor vehicle that meets the requirements of appropriate state law for registration and licensing in order to travel on public highways and Forest Service development roads.

The definition does not include devices moved by animal power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

routes – The combination of roads and trails. For example, when discussing designated motor vehicle routes, this would include all roads and trails designated for motor vehicle use.

Inventoried roadless area – A national forest area which: (1) is generally larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller is contiguous to a designated wilderness area or primitive area; (2) contains no roads; and (3) has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion in the wilderness preservation system. It can be a generic term, referring to both inventoried roadless and unroaded areas.

S

sacred site – Any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site. [EO13007]

salvage – The removal of dead trees or trees damaged or dying because of injurious agents other than competition, to recover economic value that would otherwise be lost (FSM 2435.05).

sawtimber – Trees that are 8 inches DBH or larger that can be made into lumber.

scoping process – An early and open process for determining the range of issues to be addressed and for identifying issues relevant to the proposed action.

Section 106 – Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470) requires a federal agency head with jurisdiction over a federal undertaking to consider the effects of that undertaking on properties included in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and to consult with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the undertaking and its effects on such resources. (36 CFR 800, Sec. 800.1)

security habitat – Areas elk retreat to for safety when disturbance on their usual range is intensified-such as would occur with road construction or hunting. The value of a security area depends upon the distance from an open designated route and the amount of cover. In order to qualify as a security habitat, there must be at least 250 contiguous acres that are more than one-half mile from open designated routes (Leege 1984). Generally security habitat has at least 60 percent forested cover. Security habitat for elk occurs further than 0.5 miles from an open designated route. High quality security habitat occurs greater than 1.0 mile from an open motor vehicle route.

sediment – Any solid material (mineral or organic) that has been moved to a water body and is either transported or deposited.

sensitive species – Those plant and animal species identified by a regional forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by: a) significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density; b) significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution. (FSM 2670.5)

seral stage – The stages that plant communities go through during succession. Early seral refers to plants that are present soon after a disturbance; mid seral refers to pole of medium sawtimber growth stages; and late seral refers to plants present during the later stage of succession, such as mature and old forest stages.

silviculture – The practice of manipulating the establishment, composition, structure, growth, and rate of succession of forests to accomplish specific objectives.

sinuosity – A ratio of stream length to valley bottom length.

site (historic or archaeological) – The location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure [36CFR65]

skidding – Dragging logs from the stump to a collection point.

skidtrail – A route used by loggers to drag logs from stump to landing.

skyline logging – A logging system using steel cable, tower, and a powered winch to elevate logs from their position in the woods and carry them to a point where they can be loaded on to trucks.

slash – The woody debris left on the ground after timber harvest, a storm, fire, or other event. Slash includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken stems, branches, twigs, leaves, bark, and chips.

snag – A standing dead tree usually greater than five feet in height and six inches in diameter at breast height.

snowmobile – A self-propelled motorized vehicle intended for travel primarily on snow, 48 inches wide or less, excluding accessories, driven by a track or tracks in contact with the snow, steered by a ski or skis or tracks in contact with the snow, and deriving motive power from any source other than muscle or wind.

Social Resource Unit (SRU) – The largest human geography scale and displays regional affiliation using James Kent Associates methodology (www.naturalborders.com).

soil – A dynamic natural body on the surface of the earth in which plants grow; it is composed of mineral, organic, and living materials.

soil compaction – Reduction of soil volume which results in alteration of soil, chemical and physical properties.

soil displacement – The horizontal movement of the forest floor and soil organic layers from their natural positions by mechanical forces such as a tractor blade. Also defined as the removal of one half of the “A horizon” in an area at least one square meter in size.

soil productivity – The inherent capacity of a soil to support growth of specified plants and plant communities.

special use permit – an authorization that provides permission, without conveying an interest in land, to occupy and use National Forest System land or facilities for a specified purpose and time period.

species – A population or series of populations or organisms that is capable of interbreeding freely with each other but not with members of other species.

stability – The ability of the channel banks and bottom to resist the erosive powers of moving water. Inherent stability refers to the potential stability of a riparian system.

stand – A community of trees or other vegetative growth occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age, spatial arrangement, and conditions as to be distinguishable from the other growth on adjoining lands.

stand composition – The representation of tree species in a forest stand, expressed by some measure of dominance (i.e., percent volume, number, basal area, cover).

stand structure – The different sizes and ages of trees within a stand.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) – The appointed state official charged with administration of the National Historic Preservation Act on State lands, and charged with consultation regarding cultural resources on federal lands in Montana.

stock – Includes all types of domesticated animals used for transportation of humans or hauling of supplies. The definition includes such animals as horses, mules, burros, llamas, goats, dogs, and other livestock.

strata – A stand delineation based on visible criteria: size class, crown density, and past management.

streambank alteration – Streambank instability caused by natural water flows, excessive livestock use, or concentrated human use.

substrate – The bottom of a stream, usually composed of mud, sand, gravel, and/or boulders.

subwatershed – A subdivision within a watershed.

succession – A predictable process of biotic community development that involves changes in species, structure, and community processes with time.

successional stage – A phase in the gradual supplanting of one community of plants by another.

suitable land – Commercial forest land identified as appropriate for timber production.

summer range – The area essential for big game to carry out their reproductive cycles.

surface erosion – The wearing away of the land surface by running water or wind.

surface fire – A fire burning along the surface without significant movement into the understory or overstory, with flame length usually below 1 meter, also called ground fire.

sustainability – The ability to maintain a desired condition or flow of benefits over time.

system road – A road that is wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System and which has been included in the forest transportation atlas

system trail – A trail that is wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving a part of the National Forest System and which has been included in the forest transportation atlas.

T

take – As pertaining to the Endangered Species and Migratory Bird Treaty Acts: to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect (50 CFR 10.12).

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

terrestrial – Pertaining to the land.

thermal cover – A stand of coniferous trees at least 40 feet tall with an average crown closure of 70 percent or more that acts as shelter from the weather.

threatened and endangered species (TES) – Any species, plant or animal, which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (1973).

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

timber type – Timber stands or groups of stands that have the same general vegetative composition.

total maximum daily load (TMDL) – The sum of the individual waste load allocations for point sources and load allocations for both nonpoint sources and natural background sources established at a level necessary to achieve compliance with applicable water quality standards [75-5-103(32) MCA]. In practice, TMDLs are water quality restoration targets for both point and nonpoint sources that are contained in a water quality restoration plan or in a permit.

tractor logging – A logging method that uses tractors or skidders to carry or drag logs from the stump to a collection point.

traditional cultural property – A property that is associated with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (1) are rooted in that community's history, and (2) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. [National Register Bulletin 38: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties]

trail – A route 50 inches wide or less or a route greater than 50 inches wide that is identified and managed as a trail.

travel management atlas – An atlas that consists of a forest transportation atlas and a motor vehicle use map or maps.

treaty rights – Tribal rights or interests, reserved in treaties, by Indian tribes for the use and benefit of their members. Such uses are described in the respective treaty document. (USDA Forest Service National Resource Book on American Indian and Alaska Native Relations 1997).

U

unauthorized road or trail – A road or trail that is not a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas. Also may be referred to as user-created roads or trails.

unclassified road – Roads on National Forest System lands that are not managed as part of the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, and off-road vehicle tracks that have not been designated and managed as a trail; and those roads that were once under permit or other authorization and were not decommissioned upon the termination of the authorization (36 CFR 212.1). Non-system road or undetermined road are other terms commonly used to describe an unclassified road.

underburn – A light broadcast burn under an existing forest canopy. A prescribed fire to reduce fuels causing minimal damage to existing trees.

understory – The trees, brush, and other vegetation growing beneath the canopy or overstory in a stand of taller trees.

undertaking – A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency, including: (1) those carried out by or on behalf of the agency; (2) those carried out with federal financial assistance; (3) those requiring a federal permit, license, or approval; and, (4) those subject to state or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a federal agency. [NHPA Section 301]

unsuitable forest land (not suited) (or unsuited land) – National Forest System land that is not managed for timber production because: (1) the land has been withdrawn by Congress, Secretary, or Chief; (2) technology is not available to prevent irreversible damage to soils, productivity, or watershed conditions; (3) there is no reasonable assurance that lands can be adequately restocked within 5 years after final harvest based on existing technology and knowledge; (4) there is at present, a lack of adequate information to responses to timber management activities; or (5) timber management is inconsistent with or not cost-efficient in meeting the management requirements and multiple-use objectives specified in the forest plan.

uplands – Land at a higher elevation, in general, than the alluvial plain (current floodplain) or low stream terrace (past floodplain); land above the foot slope zone of the hill slope continuum.

V

vegetative community – A group of one or more populations of plants in common spatial arrangement with common nutritive and growth functions.

viability – The ability of a wildlife or plant population to maintain sufficient size so that it persists over time in spite of normal fluctuations in numbers; usually expressed as a probability of maintaining a specific population for a specified period.

viable population – A wildlife or plant population that contains an adequate number of reproductive individuals appropriately distributed across a planning area to ensure the long-term existence of the species.

visual quality objective (VQO) – A desired level of scenic quality and diversity of natural features based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area. Refers to the degree of acceptable alterations of the characteristic landscape.

W

waterbar – An earthen barrier across a road or skidtrail, used to divert water and reduce erosion. It is usually designed to allow limited vehicle passage.

water development – A water source developed by public land managers and livestock permittees to provide water to livestock, but which could also be used by wildlife.

water quality – Refers to the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that describe the conditions of a river, stream, or lake.

water quality limited segment (WQLS) – A body of water which is not fully supporting its beneficial uses, i.e., impaired. If there is no water quality restoration plan with an approved TMDL for a waterbody, it is listed on the 303 (d) List of impaired waters from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

watershed – A total area of land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at the point. A major subdivision of a drainage basin.

water yield – The runoff from a watershed, including ground water and surface water flow.

wetland – Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (including) playa lakes, swamps, marshes, bogs and similar areas such as sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, prairie river overflows, mudflats, and natural ponds (40 CFR at 110.1[f]).

wheelchair – Includes all types of devices designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area. Wheelchairs may be self-propelled by a motor, or muscle powered by the operator or assistant.

wilderness areas (designated) – Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation as defined under the Wilderness Act (1964).

windthrow – Trees uprooted by the wind.

winter range – The area where big game species find food and cover during severe winter weather.

Y

yarding – Moving logs from the stump to a deck, road, or landing where they can then be loaded onto trucks.

Z

zone of influence – The area that is economically and socially influenced by Forest Service management activities.