

APPENDIX



GLOSSARY

AESTHETICS:

refers to the appreciation of beauty.

ALGAE:

one celled plants which may form colonies.

AMPHIBIAN:

refers to animals with adaptations that allow them to live part of their lives on land and part in the water. They usually have smooth, moist skin with no scales.

ANISHINABE:

meaning original or first people. It is the word used by the Ojibwe to refer to themselves.

AQUATIC:

refers to plants and animals that live and grow in or on the water.

BACTERIA:

one-celled microorganisms.

BARKEATERS:

nickname for lumberjacks.

BIODIVERSITY:

the number of different species of plants and animals in an environment.

BOG:

a wetland ecosystem characterized by sphagnum mosses and acidic soil and water.

BW, BWCA, AND BWCAW:

common abbreviations used for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

CANOPY:

the forest layer formed by the leaves and branches of trees and shrubs. There may be several canopy layers.

COCOON:

the envelope spun by a caterpillar in which the caterpillar encloses itself and spends its period of metamorphosis. When the caterpillar emerges, it is in the form of a moth or butterfly.

COMPOSITION:

the individual parts of a forest combined; the “make-up” of a forest or an area.



APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

CONIFER/CONIFEROUS:

refers to trees that have needles and develop seed cones. All but one (tamarack) keep their needles year round and are therefore called “evergreens.”

COURIER DU BOIS:

the French word for “runner of the woods,” a term used to describe unlicensed fur traders.

CUTTING YARD:

the area where loggers would concentrate their sawing and felling.

DECIDUOUS:

trees that shed their leaves annually.

DERECHO:

a Spanish word describing a straight-line wind exceeding 90 miles per hour. It is caused by the meeting of warm and cold fronts high in the atmosphere that expel “downbursts” rather than rotating winds.

DISTURBANCE:

an event, on a large or small scale, which alters a “typical” progression.

DIVERSITY:

refers to variety. This could be variety in age, location and entities. Diversity can exist within species, organisms, or ecosystems.

ECOSYSTEM:

a community of plants, animals, and all the physical and chemical components of an environment. An ecosystem can be a fallen log or a watershed.

ENZYME:

a complex protein produced by living cells that catalyze specific bio-chemical reactions.

ERADICATE:

to get rid of completely.

EVERGREEN:

refers to plants, shrubs, and trees that keep their foliage year round.

FORESTED:

an adjective describing an area of trees, shrubs, other plants, and the associated water, soil, oxygen and other nutrients.

APPENDIX



GLOSSARY

FUNGI/FUNGUS:

an organism that lives off other living organisms or decayed plant matter. It lacks chlorophyll, true roots, and leaves, and reproduces through spores. Important decomposers of organic wastes.

FUR TRADE:

a business that focused on trading furs for manufactured goods. Started by Europeans and carried out by Voyageurs and Native Americans, the fur trade lasted approximately 270 years.

GENETIC VARIATION:

variety within the origin of an organism; the differences in information that is transferred through genes.

HABITAT:

a place where a plant or animal lives and flourishes. A habitat includes food, water, shelter, and space.

INTERDEPENDENT:

mutually dependent.

LOW-IMPACT:

a term used to indicate little or no environmental change from human actions.

LICHEN:

an organism resulting from the combination of an algae and a fungus growing in a symbiotic association. Usually grows on stones, trees, and nutrient poor soil.

LYED CORN:

corn that was preserved by soaking it in lye, a chemical solution leached from wood ashes and typically used to make soap.

MAMMAL:

a warm-blooded vertebrate that gives live birth, has hair, and nurses its young with milk secreted from mammary glands.

METAMORPHOSIS:

the process by which an organism changes from one developmental form to another. For example, a caterpillar changes into a moth or butterfly. This change takes place in a cocoon.

MICROORGANISMS:

an organism of extremely small size.



APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

MOCCASIN:

footwear made of animal skins.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM:

644 wilderness areas in the United States established under the guidelines of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

NATIVE AMERICAN:

the people who inhabited North America before the arrival of the Europeans. The Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning uses the term “American Indian.”

OJIBWE:

a word used by neighboring people for the Anishinabe. Variations are Ojibwey and Ojibway.

ORGANISM:

an individual plant, animal, or other life form.

PEATLAND:

a wetland ecosystem characterized by the accumulation of certain plants such as sphagnum moss, a mat of partially-decayed organic material, and excessive moisture. (Examples: bog and fen)

PFD:

acronym for “Personal Flotation Device,” commonly known as a “life jacket” and worn in a boat or canoe.

PORTAGE:

from the French word meaning “to carry,” such as boats or goods overland from one body of water to another, or around an obstacle like a rapids or waterfall.

PRESERVE/PRESERVATION:

an area set aside by a local, state, or federal government, or private agencies to manage and preserve the land and/or the wildlife within the area.

PRIMEVAL:

refers to the earliest times or ages.

PRISTINE:

refers to an area that remains in an undeveloped or natural condition.

REGENERATION:

the renewal of vegetation by natural or artificial means.

APPENDIX



GLOSSARY

RENDEZ-VOUS:

French word for “meeting place.” Each spring the Voyageurs met at the Grand Portage to bring in loads of furs and to pick up more trade items for their next trip. Great celebrations took place during each rendez-vous.

REPTILE:

refers to cold-blooded vertebrates that are adapted to exist on land through all stages of life. Their skin is covered with plates (turtles) or scales (snakes or lizards).

ROD:

unit of measurement for portages. One rod equals roughly 16.5 feet, or the length of one canoe.

SKIDDING ROAD:

the ice road used for hauling logs from the cutting yard to the river for transportation to the mills.

SPECIES:

a distinct variety of an organism.

SPHAGNUM MOSS:

a highly absorbent sponge-like moss that grows in wet acidic areas where their remains become compacted with other plant debris to form peatlands.

SUCCESSION:

the process in which communities of plant and animal species in a particular area are replaced over time by a series of different and usually more complex communities.

TRACTS:

expanses of land.

UNDERSTORY:

the layer formed by the crowns of smaller trees in a forest.

UNTRAMMELED:

not confined or restrained.

VOYAGEUR:

a fur trader of French origin who traversed the Boundary Waters during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. From the French word meaning “traveler.”



APPENDIX

GLOSSARY

WILDERNESS ACT:

legislation enacted by the United States federal government in 1964 to preserve some of the country's last remaining wild places and protect them from development.

WOODY PLANTS:

characterized by the presence of wood (on trunks or stems) such as on a tree or a shrub. Non-woody plants, such as a fern or a grass, lack this characterization.