

Glossary

Access	The opportunities to approach, enter, and make use of public or private land.
Accuracy	The closeness of computations or estimates to the true (i.e., exact) standard, or accepted values. Accuracy refers to quality of/ or the degree of obtaining the correct value, especially when the measure is repeated.
Acid Deposition	Precipitation, as in rain or snow, whose increased acidity is caused by environmental factors: (i.e., atmospheric pollutants).
Acquisition	Land coming into federal ownership.
Activity	A measure, course of action, or treatment that is undertaken to directly or indirectly produce, enhance, or maintain forest and rangeland outputs or achieve administrative or environmental quality objectives.
Activity Fuels	Tree tops, branches, boles, and other woody debris that are created by timber sale activities.
Administrative Boundary	The boundary encompassing the National Forest System (NFS) lands within the original proclaimed National Forest, along with subsequent Executive Orders, Proclamations, Public Laws, Public Land Orders, Secretary of Agriculture Orders, and Secretary of Interior Orders creating modifications thereto, along with lands added to the NFS which have taken on the status of "reserved from the public domain" under the General Exchange Act. For the Ottawa, this specifically includes recent Purchase Units. As well as land within the Proclamation Boundary.
Administrative Use	Uses exercised by Forest Service personnel, volunteers, and contractors involved in Forest Service related work. Administrative use provides efficiency when carrying out project or work tasks and may involve travel on unclassified roads or cross-country (off-classified roads and trails). Uses include, but not limited to, emergency search and rescue operations, firefighting access, law enforcement, and other administrative needs. Use can also include motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued under Federal law or regulations [36 CFR 212.51(a) (8)].
Age Class	Grouping of trees originating from a single natural event or regeneration activity. Age classes are grouped by an interval of 10 or 20 years, for example 1-10 years, 11-20 years, 21-30 years, etc.
Air Quality	The composition of air with respect to quantities of pollution therein; used most frequently in connection with 'standards' of maximum acceptable pollution concentrations. Air quality classes (I, II, or III) are designations for the level of protection given to geographic areas of the country. This classification denotes the increment above which deterioration of air quality would be regarded as significant and consequently not allowed. Class I allows the least deterioration, Class II is much less restrictive than Class I. Class III is the least restrictive.
Airshed	A region sharing a common flow of air, which can become uniformly affected.
Allocations	An assigned portion of land, acreage, production, etc., for a specified purpose in a forest plan.
Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)	The quantity of timber that may be sold from the area of suitable land covered by the Forest Plan for a time period specified by the Plan. The ASQ is usually expressed on an annual basis as the "average annual allowable sale quantity"
All-terrain Vehicle (ATV)	A type of off-highway vehicle that travels on three or more low-pressure tires; has handle-bar steering; is less than or equal to 50-inches in width; and has a seat designed to be straddled by the operator. (FSH 2309.18 and FSM 2353.05)
ATV Route	Forest road that has been designated open for ATV use.

ATV Trail	Forest trail that has been designated open for ATV use and designated as a National Forest System Trail.
Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)	A brief summary of the analysis of the management situation for development of the Forest Plan, including demand and supply conditions for resource commodities and services, production potentials, and use and development opportunities. (36 CFR 219.11(a), 1982; as permitted by 36 CFR 219.14 [e] of the 2005 Planning Rule).
Analysis Unit	Subdivisions of the Forest that have a unique set of land attributes. Analysis units are not necessarily a contiguous piece of ground; parcels of land within the same unique set of attributes may be distributed throughout the Forest.
Aquatic Ecosystem	The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, and biotic communities and habitat features that occur therein (FSM 2526.05).
Aquatic Region	A delineation unit in the hierarchical framework of aquatic ecological units in North America. Regions portray refinements of fish distributions resulting from changes in routes of dispersal and isolation within subzones caused by geoclimatic factors (Maxwell, et al 1995).
Aquatic Subregions	A delineation unit in the hierarchical framework of aquatic ecological units in North America. Aquatic subregions are major drainage systems within a region that are defined by endemism and unique fish communities (Maxwell, et al 1995).
Arterial Roads	Classified roads that provide primary access from major highways and provide long-term service to recreation facilities or attractions or that access large land areas which are usually developed and operated for land and resource management purposes such as environmental protection, recreation, access, and commodity extraction.
Bankfull Stage	The elevation at which waters in a stream fills its channel to the tops of its banks, where the water begins to overflow into a floodplain.
Basal Area	The cross-sectional area of all stems in a stand measured at 4.5 feet above the ground and expressed per unit of land area. Basal area is a way to measure how much of a site is occupied by trees.
Benchmark	A series of analyses usually performed as part of the analysis of the management situations that defines the range within which alternatives can be constructed. Benchmark analyses define minimum and maximum conditions for a National Forest, e.g., maximum timber potential or maximum economic efficiency.
Benefit (Value)	Inclusive term used to quantify the results of a proposed activity, project, or program expressed in monetary or non-monetary terms.
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Practices (individual or in combination) that prevent non-point source of pollution or ensure that the amount is kept to a level compatible with State water quality and wetland protection goals.
Biota	All of the plant and animal species occurring within a certain area or region. (Hanson, 1992)
Biodiversity	Variety of life and its ecological processes; the variety of organisms considered at all levels, from genetic variants belonging to the same species, through arrays of genera, families, and still higher taxonomic levels. Includes the variety of ecosystems, which comprise both the communities of organisms within particular habitats, and the physical conditions under which they live. The Forest Service Manual has direction on habitat planning and evaluation, including specific forest planning direction for meeting biological diversity requirements: A forest plan must address biological diversity through consideration of the distribution and abundance of plant and animal species and communities to meet overall multiple-use objectives (FSM 2622.01).
Board Foot	The amount of wood contained in an unfinished board one inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide.

Bog	Wetland ecosystems made up of accumulations of peat derived from decomposed sedges and mosses. Bog water is acidic and vegetation includes mostly shrubs, sedges, and mosses, stunted black spruce, tamarack, balsam fir and northern white cedar.
Boreal Forest	A forest type consisting primarily of black spruce and white spruce with balsam fir, jack pine, birch, and aspen. It is the most extensive forest type in the world.
Buffer	An area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that may be unwanted. Buffers may be set aside wildlife habitat to reduce abrupt change to the habitat.
Canopy	The part of any stand of trees represented by the tree crowns. It usually refers to the uppermost layer of foliage, but it can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest.
Carbon Budget	The balance of the exchanges (incomes and losses) of carbon between the carbon reservoirs or between one specific loop (e.g., atmosphere - biosphere) of the carbon cycle. (Source: reference.com) A carbon budget (sometimes called carbon balance) shows the inventory of carbon in carbon pools and the balance of exchange between the pools. The rate of exchange between the pools is called carbon flux. (USDA Forest Service 2002j)
Carbon Cycle	The biogeochemical cycle by which carbon is exchanged between the biosphere, geosphere, hydrosphere and atmosphere of the Earth. Other bodies may have carbon cycles, but little is known about them. (Wikipedia 2006).
Carbon Reservoir	The atmosphere, terrestrial biosphere (usually includes freshwater systems), oceans, and sediments (includes fossil fuels). Carbon reservoirs contain pools of carbon. (Wikipedia 2006).
Carbon Sequestration	Setting aside or storing of carbon.
Carbon Sink	In ecology, a natural environment that absorbs and stores more carbon dioxide from the atmosphere than it releases, which offsets greenhouse gas emission. Forests and the oceans are major carbon sinks because much of the carbon dioxide produced elsewhere on the Earth ends up in these bodies (Webster 2006).
Cavity	A hole in a tree often used by wildlife species, usually birds, for nesting, roosting, and reproduction.
Channel	A waterway of perceptible extent that periodically or continuously contains moving water. It has definite bed and banks which serve to confine the water.
Channel Morphology	The shape and structure of channels which include bed features, dimensions, patterns of bends, profile or gradient, and the degree of constraint by entrenchment into the valley floor or by valley slopes (Hixon et al. 2004).
Channel Stability	A section of flowing water that maintains a dimension, pattern, and profile without aggrading or degrading in the current climate.
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 Forest system roads, state roads, county and township roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service.
Clearcutting	Removal of all or almost all trees in the stand in a single cutting.
Clone	A group of individuals originating from a single parent plant by vegetative reproduction (Harris and Harris 1994). Plants using this mode of reproduction are called clonal.
Closure	An administrative order prohibiting or restricting either the location, timing, or type of use in a specific area.

Coarse Woody Debris (CWD)	Stumps and fallen trunks and limbs of more than six-inch diameter at the large end. CWD is often referenced for debris in or needed for water features.
Cold-water Fish	Cold-water fish have preferences for summer water temperatures that are less than approximately 65° F.
Collector Road	Classified roads serve smaller land areas than arterial roads. These roads collect traffic from local roads or recreation facilities and attractions, usually connecting to arterial roads or State and county highways. They are operated for either constant or intermittent service depending on land use and resource management objectives.
Conspecificity	A concept in biology. Two or more individual organisms, populations, or taxa are termed conspecific if they are considered to belong to the same biological species.
Combined Data System (CDS)	The Eastern Region vegetation database that contains descriptive information about stand inventory data and stand history.
Common Variety Minerals	Includes the common varieties of sand, gravel, stone and similar materials.
Composition	As used in ecology, the mix of species present on a site, landscape, or population and the species' relative abundance.
Condition Class	A classification of the amount of departure from the natural fire regime (Schmidt, K. et al. 2002)
Conifer Trees	A wide range of the tree species within the order <i>Gymnospermae</i> , typically evergreen, bearing cones, and having needle or scale-like leaves, such as pine and spruce.
Connectivity	The linkage of similar, but separated vegetation stands by patches, corridors, or "stepping stones" of like vegetation. This term can also refer to the degree to which similar habitats are linked.
Conservation (of species)	The terms "conserve," "conserving" and "conservation" mean to use and the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to [the] Act are no longer necessary. [Endangered Species Act § 3(3)]
Constraint	In modeling, it is the mathematical equation that sets limits or goals on production of activities and outputs, and/or the interactions of the activities and outputs.
Conspecific	A concept in biology where two or more individual organisms, populations or taxa are considered to belong to the same biological species. (Wikipedia 2006)
Conveyance	Transferring lands from federal ownership to other ownership.
Corridor (transportation)	A linear strip of land defined for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries.
Corridor (wildlife)	A defined tract of land connecting two or more areas of similar habitat type through which wildlife species can travel.
Cross-country	Travel off of a designated trail or route.
Crown	The part of a tree or woody plant bearing live branches and foliage.
Cubic Foot	A unit of true volume that measures 1 x 1 x 1 foot.
Culmination of Mean Annual Increment	The age at which the average annual growth is greatest for a stand of trees. Mean annual increment is expressed in cubic feet, and is based on expected growth according to the management intensities and utilization standards assumed in accordance with 36 CFR 219.16(a)(2)(i) and (ii),1982; as permitted by 36 CFR 291.14[e] of the 2005 Planning Rule). Culmination of mean annual increment (CMAI) includes regeneration harvest yields and any additional yields from planned intermediate harvests.
Cultural Resource	A building, site, structure, object, or historical district that possesses historical significance (see also heritage resources).

Designated Road or Trail	A National Forest System road or trail on National Forest System lands that is designated for motor vehicle use pursuant to 36 CFR 212.51 on a motor vehicle use map (MVUM) (36 CFR 212.1).
Desired Condition	Description of land and resource conditions if all long-term goals are achieved.
Desired Non-native Species	Those species of plants or animals that are not indigenous to an area, but wanted for their contribution to high social, economic, or cultural value.
Developed Recreation Sites	A distinctly defined place containing a concentration of facilities and/or services used to provide recreation opportunities to the public. For example, campgrounds, picnic areas, or swimming beaches.
Dispersed Recreation	Recreation opportunities or use occurring away from developed recreation sites, providing very little or no contact with Forest Service or volunteer staff. There may be minor facilities associated with dispersed recreation areas, such as a parking area and bulletin board at a trailhead or no facilities for activities such as hunting.
Displacement	The mechanical movement or removal of the top mineral or organic layers of the soil. Detrimental displacement is excessive removal sufficient to reduce the long-term productivity and biodiversity of soil dependent flora and fauna. Mixing of mineral and organic soil materials is not considered detrimental displacement (such as mixing by discing, etc.)
Disturbance	Any event, either natural or human-induced, that alters the structure, composition, or functions of an ecosystem. Examples include forest fires, insect infestations, and timber harvesting.
Duff	Soil layer consisting of partly and well-decomposed plant organic matter; including the humus layer. Most often this is a surface layer. See also forest floor, surface 'o' layer.
Early Successional Forest	The forest community that develops immediately following a removal or destruction of vegetation in an area. For instance, grasses may be the first plants to grow in an area that was burned.
Ecological Approach	An approach to natural resource management that considers the relationships among all organisms, including humans, and their environment.
Ecological Classification System	An inventory of the national hierarchical classification system based on biotic and environmental factors. At the Ecoregion scale, ecological map units are domain—division—province (global or national); at the Subregional scale, map units are sections and subsections (Statewide, multi-forest, multi agency); at the Landscape scale, map units are landtype associations (Forest or area-wide); and at the Land unit scale, map units are (ecological) landtypes, and landtype phases (project and management area).
Ecological Landtype Phase (ELTP)	An ecological map unit which is a subdivision of landtype associations or groupings of landtype phases that are areas of land with a distinct combination or combinations of natural, physical, chemical and biological properties that cause it to respond in a predictable and relatively uniform manner to the application of given management practices. In a relatively undisturbed state and/or a given stage of plant succession, an ELTP is usually occupied by predictable and relatively uniform plant community or communities.
Ecological Subsection	An ecological unit in the subregion planning and analysis scale of the National Hierarchical Framework corresponding to subdivisions of a Section into areas with similar surficial geology, lithology, geomorphic process, soil groups, subregional climate and potential natural communities (USDA Forest Service 1994a).
Ecology	The interrelationships of living things to one another and to their environment, or the study of these interrelationships.
Ecosystem	A community of living plants, animals, and other organisms interacting with each other and with their physical environment.

Ecosystem Management	An ecological approach to natural resource management to assure productive, healthy ecosystems by blending social, economic, physical, and biological needs and values.
Ecotone	Transitional area between two adjacent ecological communities.
Edge	The margin where two or more vegetation patches meet, such as a meadow opening next to a mature forest stand, a red pine stand next to an aspen stand, or a clearcut stand next to a well-stocked stand.
Emergent Vegetation	Herbaceous plants that grow in water or saturated soil, with portions that stand up out of the water.
Endangered Species	Official designation by USDI Fish and Wildlife Service applied to any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Endemic	Indigenous or confined to a certain area or region, having a comparatively restricted distribution.
Enhance	To improve, reinforce, enrich or strengthen the existing condition, value or beauty of a resource.
Erosion	The wearing away of the land's surface by running water, wind, ice, and other geological agents. It includes detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Rills, gullies, pedestals and soil deposition are indicators of accelerated surface soil erosion, which are considered detrimental erosion.
Esker	A sinuous, thin, steep-sided landform resulting from melted water flowing (a river) under a continental glacier.
Ethnography	A branch of anthropology that deals with specific cultures.
Eutrophication	The process by which a body of water becomes enriched in dissolved nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen) that stimulate growth of aquatic plant life.
Evaluation	The analysis of monitoring data that produces information needed to answer specific monitoring questions.
Even-aged management	A stand containing a single age class in which the range of tree ages is usually less than 20% of the normal rotation or life span. Timber management actions that result in the creation of stands of trees in which the trees are essentially the same age. Clearcut, shelterwood, or seed-tree harvest methods produce even-aged stands.
Extirpation	A population that has been removed completely from an area, often by hunting pressure.
Fifth and Sixth-level Watersheds	Watersheds delineated using the USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) delineation system. Fifth-level watersheds are larger than sixth-level watersheds.
Filter Strip	An area of land adjacent to a water body that acts to trap and filter out suspended sediment and chemicals attached to sediment before it reaches the surface water. Unless specific management direction in the Forest Plan indicates otherwise, harvesting and other forest management activities are permitted in a filter strip as long as the integrity of the filter strip is maintained and mineral soil exposure is kept to a minimum.
Fire Regime	A generalized description of the role fire plays in an ecosystem. It is characterized by fire frequency, seasonality, intensity, duration and scale (patch size), as well as regularity or variability.
Fire Rotation	The interval of time between wildland fire occurrences in a specific geographic area.
Fiscal Year	The fiscal year is the government's accounting period. It begins on October 1 and ends on September 30, and is designated by the calendar year in which it ends. Before 1976, the fiscal year began on July 1, and ended on June 30.
Floodplain	Lowland and relatively flat areas joining inland waters, including flood-prone areas of islands. The minimum area included is that subject to a one percent (100-year recurrence) or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Flood-prone Area	The area along a stream inundated by water from a < 50-year return period flood event (Rosgen, 1996).
Forbs	Non-grasslike, herbaceous plants.
Forest Cover Type (Forest Type)	Stands of particular vegetation types that are composed of similar species.
Forest Health	A forest condition that has overall structure, function, and characteristics that enable it to be resilient to disturbance, meet human needs, and to maintain normal rates of change commensurate with its stage of development.
Forest Products	Goods resulting from use of the forest. These may include timber, boughs, firewood and minerals.
Forest Service File Code	The Forest Plan is arranged according to file code designation order. The USDA Forest Service arranges its governing agency direction (Manuals and Handbooks) by resource area, each assigned a four-digit numerical code. Primary resource topics in the Forest Plan are displayed with codes between 1500 (External Relations) and 7700 (Transportation)
Forest Transportation Atlas	A display of the system of roads, trails, and airfields of an administrative unit (36 CFR 212.1).
Fragmentation	Breaking-up of contiguous forested areas into progressively smaller patches of different ages and/or forest types with an increasing degree of isolation from each other. (USDA Forest Service 2005c)
Fuel Treatment	The manipulation of wildland fuel, such as lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning, or removal for the purpose of reducing its flammability or resistance to control.
Fuels	Plants and woody vegetation, both living and dead, which are capable of burning.
Fuels Management	The practice of evaluating, planning, and treating wildland fuel to reduce flammability and to reduce its resistance to control through mechanical, chemical, biological, or manual means, including prescribed fire and wildland fire use in support of land management objectives.
Function	A term in ecology referring to the interactions and influences between plant and animal species within an area (how each species uses its environment), and to natural processes of change or disturbance (such as wind or aging).
Game Species	Those wildlife species that are commonly hunted, trapped, or fished.
Geographic Information System	A database that holds spatial information and can be used for analysis and mapping.
Geomorphology	The study of the evolution and configuration of landforms.
Goal	A concise statement that describes a desired condition normally expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless, in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved.
Goods and Services	Outputs, including on-site uses, produced by forest and rangeland resources.
Graminoids	Grass-like herbaceous plants such as grasses, sedges, rushes, bulrushes.
Grooming	Preparation of snow for skiing, i.e., packing, tracking, and tilling.
Groundwater	Water within the earth that supplies wells and springs. Specifically, water in the zone of saturation where all openings in soils and rocks are filled; the upper surface level forms the water table.

Groundwater Podzol	A great group in the 1938 classification system, an intrazonal, hydromorphic group of soils having a prominent, light colored leached A2 horizon overlain by thin organic material and underlain by a dark brown B horizon, irregularly cemented with iron or organic compounds. It develops under various types of forest vegetation, in humid climates of varying temperature (USDA 1938). These soils are now classed as Spodosols (Jackson, 1997).
Group Selection Harvest	A cutting method in which trees are removed periodically in small groups. This silvicultural treatment results in small openings that form mosaics of age-class groups and leads to the formation of an uneven-aged stand.
Group Size	The maximum number of persons authorized to travel together.
Guide	See “Outfitter/Guide.”
Guidelines	Guidelines are preferable limits to management actions that may be followed to achieve desired conditions. Guidelines are generally expected to be carried out. They help the Forest to reach the desired conditions and objectives in a way that permits operational flexibility to respond to variations over time. Deviations from guidelines must be analyzed during project-level analysis and documented in a project decision document, but deviations do not require a Forest Plan amendment.
Guilds	A group of species that exploit the same class of environmental resource in a similar way.
Habitat	The environment in which an organism (plant or animal) lives.
Herb	A non-woody plant; includes grasses, sedges, rushes (the graminoids) and wildflowers (the forbs).
Heritage Resources	The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by people in the past; this can be historical or pre-historic (also see cultural resources).
Hydrologic Connectivity	The connection of water flow from one area to another. In the context of seasonal ponds, it is the flow between groundwater and the pond.
Hydrologic Discharge	The flow of water, over time, past a particular point on the land. Usually measured in cfs (cubic feet per second).
Impact Area	The area within which effects of the management of a National Forest can be understood. Groups of counties, modeled as a single economic unit, with common attributes in relation to National Forest management decision and activities.
Impoundment	A body of water formed by impounding. Impound – to collect and confine (water) in or as if in a reservoir. (Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition.)
Individual Tree Selection Harvest	A cutting method where individual trees are removed from certain size and age classes over an entire stand area. Regeneration is usually natural, and an uneven-aged stand is maintained.
Infiltration	The rate of movement of water from the atmosphere into the soil; that portion of rainfall or surface runoff that moves downward into the subsurface rock and soil; the entry of water from precipitation, irrigation, or runoff into the soil profile.
Integrated Pest Management (IPM)	An ecologically based process for selecting strategies to regulate forest pests to achieve resource management objectives. It is the planned and systematic use of detection, evaluation, and monitoring techniques; and all appropriate silvicultural, biological, chemical, genetic, and mechanical tactics needed to prevent or reduce pest-caused damage and losses to levels that are economically, environmentally, and aesthetically acceptable. (FSH 2109.14-94-1)
Interdisciplinary Team	A group of individuals with different training assembled to perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad enough to adequately address/solve a problem.

Interior Forest	A forest area that is not influenced by edge effects. The distance that edge effects can penetrate varies with the effect and the forest type with 2 to 3 tree lengths (e.g., 1 tree length=about 75 feet) as a general measure of distance.
Intermittent Stream	A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from rainfall or run-off from some surface source, such as melting snow.
Landings	A cleared place within a timber sale area where forest products are yarded and stored until they can be transported for processing.
Land Exchange	A discretionary, voluntary transaction involving mutual transfers of land or interests in land between the Secretary of Agriculture acting by or through the Forest Service and a non-federal entity.
Landscape	A relatively large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated due to factors such as geology, soils, climate, and human impacts.
Landtype Association (LTA)	Landtype associations are landscape scale map units defined by a dominant geomorphic process type, similar landforms, surficial and near-surface geologic formations, and associations of soil families and potential natural vegetation at the series level (Forman and Godron 1986, Bailey and Avers 1993, Cleland et al. 1997).
Large Woody Debris (LWD)	Large pieces of wood in areas not associated with water features. LWD includes logs, pieces of logs, and large chunks of wood. Also referred to as down woody debris.
Late Successional Forest	The stage of forest succession in which most of the trees are mature or overmature.
Local Road	Classified roads that connect terminal activities (e.g., trail heads, log landing, camping site, etc.) to collector and arterial roads. They are developed and operated to meet the access requirements of a specific resource activity rather than travel efficiency. When not being used for the activity for which they were constructed, then may be used for other purposes. They are often gated or closed by other means to restrict motor vehicle use. The construction standards for these roads are determined by the requirements necessary for the specific activity.
Long-lived Conifers	A grouping of forest types including red pine, white pine, white spruce, and hemlock. These trees are generally capable of living longer life spans and are generally managed on longer rotations.
Long-term Sustained Yield	The highest uniform wood yield from lands being managed for timber production that may be sustained under specified management intensity consistent with multiple-use objectives.
Lowland Conifer	A grouping of conifer tree species which grow on wet to very wet sites such as black spruce, northern white cedar, and tamarack.
Lowland Hardwoods	Hardwood tree species such as black ash, American elm, and red maple which normally grow on wet sites.
Low-head dams	Dams that are below six feet in height and therefore do not qualify for the Army Corp of Engineers National Inventory of Dams.
Management Area (MA)	A portion of a landscape with similar management objectives and a common management prescription. An area of common direction that differs from neighboring areas. The entire Forest is divided into management areas. Specific direction for each management area is described through desired conditions, standards, and guidelines.
Management Direction	A statement of multiple-use and other goals, the associated objectives, the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining the objectives and desired conditions.

Management Indicator Species	Management indicator species (MIS) are plant and animal species, communities, or special habitats selected and monitored during forest plan implementation in order to assess the effects of management activities on species with similar habitat needs which they may represent. (National Forest Management Act, 1982 regulations, as permitted by 36 CFR 219.14(f) of the 2005 Planning Rule)
Management Practices	A specific activity, course of action, or treatment that is designed to move the forest toward desired conditions.
Mature Tree or Stand	A tree or stand that has attained full development, particularly in height, and is in full seed production.
Mean Annual Increment of Growth	The total increase in size or volume of individual trees; or it can refer to the increase in size and volume of a stand of trees at a particular age, divided by that age in years (also see culmination mean annual increment).
Memorandum of Understanding	The instrument used for a written plan between the Forest Service and other parties for carrying out their separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner and for documenting a framework for cooperation.
Mesic	Refers to site conditions that are moderate in their moisture availability; not too wet nor too dry. (Hanson, 1992)
Mid-tolerant Hardwoods	Hardwood species that are intermediate in tolerance; that is they require some sunlight to the forest floor to successfully regenerate and become established. Mid-tolerant hardwoods include basswood, green ash, black ash, white ash, yellow birch, and northern red oak.
Mineral Soil	Soil that consists mainly of inorganic material, such as weathered rock, rather than organic matter.
Minimum Requirements Decision Guide	Process to identify, analyze, and select management actions that are the minimum necessary for wilderness administration.
Mitigation	Action taken for the purpose of eliminating, reducing, or minimizing negative impacts of management activities on the environment.
Model	A representation of a thing; sometimes a facsimile. An abstraction from reality, an attempt to present some of the important features of a real thing (system) in a simplified way to aid understanding. Some models use words, pictures, diagrams, and/or mathematical equations to present an idealized representation of reality for purposes of describing, analyzing, understanding, and predicting the behavior of some aspect of it. Applicable to a broad class of representations, ranging from a relatively simple qualitative description of a system or organization, to a physical model, to a highly abstract set of mathematical equations or computer program.
Monitoring	A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate changes in actions, conditions, and relationships over time and space relative to a pre-determined standard or expected norm.
Monitoring and Evaluation (Forest Plan)	The periodic evaluation of Forest Plan management activities to determine how well objectives are met, and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied.
Mosaic	Areas with a variety of plant communities over a landscape, such as areas with trees and areas without trees occurring over a landscape.
Motorboat	A boat propelled by gas or electric motor with a propeller below the water line. Does not include hovercraft.
Motor Vehicle	Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than: (1) a vehicle operated on rails, (2) any wheelchair or mobility device, including one that is battery powered (36 CFR 212.1).

Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM)	A map reflecting designated roads and trails and areas on an administrative unit or a Ranger District of the National Forest System (36 CFR 212.1).
Multiple-use Management	The management of all renewable surface resources of National Forest land for a variety of purposes such as recreation, wilderness, range, timber, wildlife, and fish habitat, and watershed.
National Forest System Land	Federal lands that have been designated by Executive order or statute as National Forests, National Grasslands, National Tallgrass Prairie, or other lands under the administration of the Forest Service.
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 (36 CFR 212.1).
National Forest System Trails	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 (36 CFR 212.1).
National Wild and Scenic River System	Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for preservation of their free-flowing condition.
National Wilderness Preservation System	All lands covered by the Wilderness Act and subsequent wilderness designations, irrespective of the department or agency having jurisdiction.
Native Species	With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that historically occurred in that ecosystem. Native species do not include species introduced by humans.
Natural Disturbance	Disruption of existing conditions by wind, fire, flooding, drought, ice storms, insects, and disease at a scale from one tree to hundreds of thousands of acres.
Natural Drainage Class	<p>Natural drainage class refers to the frequency and duration of wet periods under conditions similar to those under which the soil developed. Alteration of the water regime by humans, either through drainage or irrigation, is not a consideration unless the alterations have significantly changed the morphology of the soil. The classes are as follows:</p> <p>Excessively drained – Water is removed very rapidly. The occurrence of internal free water commonly is very rare or very deep. The soils are commonly coarse-textured and have very high hydraulic conductivity or are very shallow.</p> <p>Somewhat excessively drained – Water is removed from the soil rapidly. Internal free water occurrence commonly is very rare or very deep. The soils are commonly coarse-textured and have high saturated hydraulic conductivity or are very shallow.</p> <p>Well drained – Water is removed from the soil readily but not rapidly. Internal free water occurrence commonly is deep or very deep; annual duration is not specified. Water is available to plants throughout most of the growing season in humid regions. Wetness does not inhibit growth of roots for significant periods during most growing seasons. The soils are mainly free of the deep to redoximorphic features that are related to wetness.</p>

Natural Drainage Class (continued)	<p>Moderately well drained – Water is removed from the soil somewhat slowly during some periods of the year. Internal free water occurrence commonly is moderately deep and transitory through permanent. The soils are wet for only a short time within the rooting depth during the growing season, but long enough that most mesophytic crops are affected. They commonly have a moderately low or lower saturated hydraulic conductivity in a layer within the upper 1 meter, periodically receive high rainfall, or both.</p> <p>Somewhat poorly drained – Water is removed slowly so that the soil is wet at a shallow depth for significant periods during the growing season. The occurrence of internal free water commonly is shallow to moderately deep and transitory to permanent. Wetness markedly restricts the growth of mesophytic crops, unless artificial drainage is provided. The soils commonly have one or more of the following characteristics: low or very low saturated hydraulic conductivity, a high water table, additional water from seepage, or nearly continuous rainfall.</p> <p>Poorly drained – Water is removed so slowly that the soil is wet at shallow depths periodically during the growing season or remains wet for long periods. The occurrence of internal free water is shallow or very shallow and common or persistent. Free water is commonly at or near the surface long enough during the growing season so that most mesophytic crops cannot be grown, unless the soil is artificially drained. The soil, however, is not continuously wet directly below plow-depth. Free water at shallow depth is usually present. This water table is commonly the result of low or very low saturated hydraulic conductivity of nearly continuous rainfall, or of a combination of these.</p> <p>Very poorly drained – Water is removed from the soil so slowly that free water remains at or very near the ground surface during much of the growing season. The occurrence of internal free water is very shallow and persistent or permanent. Unless the soil is artificially drained, most mesophytic crops cannot be grown. The soils are commonly level or depressed and frequently ponded. If rainfall is high or nearly continuous, slope gradients may be greater.</p>
Natural Processes/ Conditions	Plant and animal communities where people have not directly impacted either of those communities or their soils by such activities as logging, fire suppression, grazing, or cultivation.
Natural Opening	Area of forest whose vegetation is predominantly contained in the ground-layer or mid-layer, e.g. grasses, forbs, shrubs, or saplings, with minor representation in the canopy-layer, e.g. mature trees. Such areas typically are the product of natural stand-replacing disturbance processes, e.g. fire, wind, or ice storms, and typically will return to a forested state dominated by canopy-layer and shrub-layer vegetation. Depending upon eco-type, natural openings can vary in size from less than one acre to hundreds or thousands of acres.
Natural-appearing	The existing natural character of the landscape is integrated into management activities, such as harvesting. The landscape shows few signs of forest management activities; however, the effects of naturally-occurring disturbances (fire or windstorm) may be noticeable.
Net Present Value (NPV)	Also referred to as Present Net Value (PNV). The difference between the discounted value (benefits) of all outputs to which monetary values or established market prices are assigned and the total discounted costs of managing the planning area (36 CFR 219.3,1982; as permitted by 36 CFR 219.14 [e] of the Planning Rule).
Niche	The role of a species or place in its community and its environment.

Non-native Invasive Species	Non-native species are any species that occupy an ecosystem outside its historical range. Invasive species are any non-native species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Invasive species are those species that spread from their original native habitat, to one that is not their native habitat. NNIS explode in population because they are not in their original ecosystem where they were kept in check by many factors, such as parasites and predation. Frequently these species are aggressive and difficult to manage. NNIS differ from noxious weeds in that NNIS can be animals or plants, and they are strictly non-native species.
Non-vascular Plant	Any of a group of plants which does not have conductive tissue: mosses, liverworts, and hornworts.
Northern Hardwoods	Northern hardwoods are hardwood stands that contain a mix of diverse hardwood species. Northern hardwoods are broken into two groups: upland hardwoods (which grown on well-drained sites), and lowland hardwoods (which grown on wetter sites).
Nutrient Cycling	Circulation or exchange of elements such as nitrogen and carbon between non-living and living portions of the environment. Includes all mineral and nutrient cycles involving mammals and vegetation.
Objective	A concise, time-specific statement of measurable and planned results that respond to pre-established desired condition. An objective forms the basis for further planning by defining both the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified desired conditions. Objectives are action oriented and specifically describe measurable results.
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 (36 CFR 212.1). ATVs are a subset of OHVs.
Old Growth	Old growth forests are forests that have developed relatively free of stand replacement disturbances over a long period. Old growth consists of late-successional stages of naturally occurring forests dominated by long lived species, containing large trees and tree fall gaps, and having multiple canopy layers, high levels of structural diversity and high frequency of snags and downed logs of various sizes and stages of decay.
Open Road Density	The linear measure of all roads open to public traffic per unit area, commonly expressed in units of miles of open road per square mile of land.
Objective Maintenance Level (OML)	<p>The intended level of maintenance to be received by each road commensurate with the planned function and use of the road.</p> <p>OML 1 – Assigned to intermittent service roads when they are closed to highway vehicle traffic. Planned road deterioration may occur at this level. Appropriate traffic management strategies are “prohibit” and “eliminate.” OML 1 roads 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, are not maintained, but may be open and suitable for non-motorized uses.</p> <p>OML 2 – Assigned to roads operated for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted (such as log haul), dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either (1) discourage or prohibit passenger cars, or (2) accept or discourage high clearance vehicles.</p>

Objective Maintenance Level (continued)	<p>OML 3 – Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Roads are typically low speed, single lane with turnouts and spot surfacing. Roads may also be double lane. Appropriate traffic management strategies are either to ‘encourage’ or ‘accept’. Discourage or prohibit strategies may be employed for certain classes of vehicles or users.</p> <p>OML 4 – 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.</p> <p>OML 5 – Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. The roads are normally double lane, paved facilities.</p>
Organic matter	Plant and animal residues, or substances made by living organisms. All are based upon carbon.
Outcomes	The impact on a resource or landscape of program activities, for example water quality changes and improved habitat condition.
Outfitter/Guide	A special-use permittee that provides commercial operations. “Outfitting” involves providing services for accommodating guests, transporting persons, and/or providing equipment, supplies, and materials. “Guiding” is the act of providing personal services, or serves as a leader or escort in pursuit of an activity.
Outstandingly Remarkable Values	In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, river values identified include scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values. The Act does not further define outstandingly remarkable values. Agency resource professionals develop and interpret criteria in evaluating river values (unique, rare, or exemplary) based on professional judgment on a regional, physiographic, or geographic comparative basis.
Over-snow Vehicle	A motor vehicle that is designated for use over snow and that runs on a track or tracks and /or a ski or skis, while in use over snow (36 CFR 212.1).
Patch Size	A relatively homogenous nonlinear area that differs from its surroundings. It can specifically describe forested patches, nonforest vegetation patches, rock/ barren patches, or water patches. (USDA Forest Service 2005g)
Pathogen	A specific agent, such as a bacterium or virus, capable of causing a disease
Perennial	A plant that lives three or more years (Harris and Harris 1994).
Perennial Stream	A stream that maintains water in its channel throughout the year.
Permanent Forest Opening	A specific area where shrubs, forbs, grasses, and/or sedges predominate and which is maintain in the open state either naturally or through active maintenance. A permanent opening includes maintained openings, small barrens communities, frost pockets, and other natural openings.
Pests	Insects, diseases, or animals that interfere with objectives for management of forests.
Pine Barrens	A savanna-type community that has 0 to 50% canopy closure (overstory) in the form of clumps or individual trees of jack pine, red pine, oak, and aspen species. These communities have a shrub-grassland underneath dominated by ericaceous (heath) species and contain some prairie species. Fire is the dominant disturbance mechanism, and the stand replacing fire interval is 5 to 50 years.
Pit and Mound Topography	Changes in topography at a micro-scale resulting from past tree falls, tip-up mounds and the pits created where the root was uprooted. This patterning is common in unmanaged forests and contributes to soil productivity and plant diversity by providing spatial heterogeneity.

Planning Horizon	The overall time period considered in the planning process that spans all the activities covered in the analysis or plan and all future conditions and effects of proposed actions which influence the planning decisions (36 CFR 219.3, 1982; as permitted by 36 CFR 219.14 [e] of the 2005 Planning Rule).
Planning Period	One decade. The time interval within the planning horizon that is used to show incremental changes in yields, costs, effects, and benefits (36 CFR 219.3, 1982; as permitted by 36 CFR 219.14 [e] of the 2005 Planning Rule).
Plant Communities	An assemblage of plants that, in general, occur together on similar site conditions.
Pole	A tree of a size between a sapling and a mature tree.
Precision	Degree of accuracy; generally refers to the number of significant digits of information to the right of the decimal point. Statistical, the degree of variation about the mean.
Prescribed Fire/Prescribed Burning/Management Ignited Fire	The intentional use of fire to accomplish specific resource objectives under prescribed conditions and circumstances. Prescribed fire is used to accomplish specific resource objectives such as preparing sites for natural regeneration of trees, reducing fuels, or controlling unwanted vegetation.
Prescription (Fire or Silvicultural)	A planned series of treatments designed to change current stand structure to one that meets management goals.
Pre-settlement	The time period before European settlement, approximately mid to late 1800s.
Proclamation Boundary	The boundary encompassing National Forest System lands within the original proclaimed National Forest. It does not include Purchase Units.
Pulpwood	Trees that yield logs of suitable size and quality for production of pulp.
Recovery (of federally listed species)	Improvement in the status of listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set out in the Endangered Species Act.
Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	A formal Forest Service process designed to delineate, define, and integrate outdoor recreation opportunities in land and resource management planning. ROS classes are used to describe all recreation opportunity areas; from natural, undisturbed, and undeveloped to heavily used, modified and developed. ROS designations attempt to describe the kind of recreation experience one may have in a given part of the National Forest. (See Appendix B of the Forest Plan for more information)
Recreation Residence	Cabins on National Forest System land that normally were established in tracts and built for recreation purposes, with agency approval and supervision. These cabins are authorized by special-use permit and are not the primary residences of the owners.
Recreation Visitor Day (RVD)	Recreational use of National Forest System land, which aggregates 12 hours. It may consist of one person for 12 hours, two people for six hours, or any combination that totals 12 hours.
Regeneration	The renewal of a tree crop by either natural or artificial means. The term is also used to refer to the young crop itself.
Release	Removal of competing vegetation to allow desired tree species to grow.
Rendezvous Site	Above ground areas where wolf pups are taken after weaning and used until the pups have developed enough to travel with the pack. Rendezvous sites become the focus of a pack activity after denning. They are usually located in open areas of grass or sedge near wetlands (Mech 1970).
Research Natural Areas	Areas within National Forests that the Forest Service has designated to be permanently protected and maintained in a natural condition.
RNA-Equivalent	Land set aside under similar protections for natural ecological function as in a research natural area. Examples include state natural areas, some university lands, and The Nature Conservancy preserves.

Reservoir	A place where something is kept in store: as an artificial lake where water is collected and kept in quantity for use. (Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary Tenth Edition.)
Restoration (of ecosystems)	Actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve a healthy and functioning condition.
Revegetation	The re-establishment and development of a plant cover by either natural or artificial means.
Rhizome	Underground stem. Some plants can reproduce vegetatively from their rhizomes. They are called rhizomatous.
Right-of-way	Term used to describe a right belonging to a party to pass over land of another.
Riparian Area	Geographically delineable areas with distinctive resource values and characteristics that are comprised of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems (FSM 2526.05)
Riparian Corridor	The riparian area and adjacent terrestrial areas needed to protect or restore riparian function (USDA Forest Service, 2004i).
Riparian Ecosystems	A transition area between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent terrestrial ecosystem; identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.
Road	Motor vehicle travelway over 50-inches wide, unless designated and managed as a trail. See "Objective Maintenance Level" in this glossary for more road related definitions.
Road Decommissioning	Activities that result in the stabilization and restoration of unneeded roads to a more natural state (36 CFR 212.1).
Road Density	A simple indicator of the concentration of NFS roads in an area (USDA Forest Service 1999c)
Roadless Area	An area inventoried in a National Forest that meets specific criteria. Some of the criteria include (1) is approximately 2,500 acres, or if smaller, is contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area, or lies east of the 100th Meridian, and therefore, under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Wilderness Act; (2) can include up to ½ miles of improved Forest Service road per 1,000 acres; and (3) has been inventoried for further study as a possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System.
Rotation	The number of years required to establish and grow timber crops, to a specified condition of maturity.
Rotation Age	The period of time required to grow timber to maturity in even-aged systems.
Salvage	The removal of dead trees or trees being damaged or dying due to injurious agents other than competition, to recover value that would otherwise be lost.
Sapling	A young tree more than a few feet tall and an inch or so in diameter that is typically growing vigorously. A young tree larger than a seedling, but smaller than a pole.
Sawtimber	Any tree capable of yielding logs of a size and quality suitable for lumber production.
Scenery	General appearance of a place or landscape, and a natural resource of the Forests and composed of existing natural features including vegetation, water, landforms, and geology.
Sediment	Solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface.
Seed Tree Harvest	A cutting method in which the mature timber crop is removed from an area in one cut, except for a certain number of widely-dispersed seed bearers.
Sensitive Species	Plant and animal species designated by a Regional Forester, or State agency for which population viability is a concern.

Seral Stage	The stage of succession of a plant or animal community that is transitional. If left alone, the seral stage will give way to another plant or animal community that represents a further stage of succession (climax).
Sere	A stage in natural succession, as in early seral, mid seral, or late seral plant communities.
Shade Tolerance	The ability of a tree to survive and grow in shaded conditions.
Shelterwood Harvest	Method of regenerating an even-aged stand in which trees are removed to establish a new age class beneath the shelter of residual trees.
Short-lived Conifers	Short-lived conifer tree species are a grouping of forest types such as jack pine, balsam fir, and tamarack that contain mixtures of trees which have relatively shorter life spans, and are generally managed on shorter rotations.
Silvicultural Prescriptions or Treatment or Practices	Activities prescribed for tending, harvesting, and re-establishing a stand of trees.
Silviculture	The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of society on a sustainable basis.
Site Index	A measure of actual or potential forest productivity expressed in terms of the average height of a number of representative trees in the stand at an index age.
Site Preparation	The general term for removing unwanted vegetation, slash, roots, and stones from a site before reforestation. Naturally occurring wildfire, as well as prescribed fire, can prepare a site for natural regeneration.
Size Class	One of the three intervals of tree stem diameters used to classify timber in the Forest Plan data base. The size classes are: Seedling/sapling (less than five inches in diameter); pole timber (five to seven inches in diameter); and sawtimber (greater than seven inches in diameter).
Skidding	Hauling logs by sliding from stump to a collection point.
Slash	The residue wood left on the ground after timber cutting or after a storm, fire, or other event. Slash includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken or uprooted stems, branches, bark, etc.
Snag	A standing dead tree.
Snowmobile	Any motor-driven vehicle designed for travel primarily on snow or ice using sled-type runners or skis, and endless belt tread or similar meant to contact the surface upon which it is operated (Michigan DNR, 2002c). A snowmobile is also included in the definition “over-snow vehicle” under the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.1).
Soil Classification	The systematic arrangement of soils into groups or categories on the basis of their characteristics. Broad groupings or categories are made on the basis of general characteristics, and subdivisions on the basis of more detailed differences in specific properties. The USDA soil classification system (Soil Taxonomy) was adapted for use in publications by the National Cooperative Soil Survey on 1 January, 1965 (Jackson 1997).
Soil Compaction	A physical change in soil properties that results in a decrease in porosity and an increase in soil-bulk density and strength that can hamper root growth, reduce aeration and inhibit soil water movement.
Soil Productivity	Soil potential to produce biomass that depends on the interaction of physical, chemical and climatic characteristics of the site.
Soil Quality	The inherent capacity of a specific soil, as determined by its inherent physical, chemical and biological characteristics, to perform its biologic, hydrologic, and ecological functions (FSH 2509.18, 2002).

Soil Taxonomy	Soil Taxonomy is the part of (soil) classification that is concerned primarily with relationships (USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service 1999).
Special Forest Product	Plant products harvested for other purposes than fiber. These may include tree species. Typical products include conifer boughs, Christmas trees, birch bark, firewood, maple sap, cones, princess pines, sheet moss, tree seedlings, and diamond willow.
Species Viability	A viable species consists of self-sustaining and interacting populations that are well distributed through the species' range. Self-sustaining populations are those that are sufficiently abundant and have sufficient diversity to display the array of life history strategies and forms to provide for their long-term persistence and adaptability over time.
Spring Ephemeral	An herbaceous plant which completes its life cycle in the spring before the trees are fully leafed out.
Stand (of trees)	A community of trees or other vegetation sufficiently uniform in composition, constitution, age, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities and so form a silvicultural or management entity.
Standards	Requirements found in a forest plan, which impose limits on natural resource management activities, generally for environmental protection. Standards are required limits to activities to allow the Forest to reach the goal and objectives. Deviations from standards must be analyzed and documented in Forest Plan amendments.
State Designated Uses	Specific uses identified for all water bodies in the State, both surface and ground water. Waters of the state are protected for multiple uses and water quality standards exist to protect those uses. Examples of designated uses are drinking water, aquatic life and recreation, agriculture; wildlife, industrial consumption, aesthetic enjoyment, and navigation.
Stocking Level	The number of trees in an area as compared to the desirable number of trees for best results, such as maximum wood production.
Structural Diversity	Variation of vegetation at the landscape or site level. At the landscape scale, this might include non-forest and forested areas. At the site level, this refers to the different vegetation heights and characteristics.
Structure	How the parts of ecosystems are arranged, both horizontally and vertically. Structure might reveal a pattern, or mosaic, or total randomness of vegetation.
Subsection	Term used to describe an ecological unit. Subsections are defined by glacial forming processes, bedrock formations, local climate, topography, soil groups and the distribution of plants.
Succession	The natural replacement, in time, of one plant community with another. It includes changes in species, structure, and community processes. Succession is reasonably predictable.
Successional Pathway	A series of dynamic changes by which organisms succeed one another through a series of plant community (seral) stages leading to a potential natural community or climax.
Successional Stage	A stage of development of a plant community as it moves from bare ground to climax. These are generally referred to as early, mid, and late successional stages.
Suitability	The appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices to a particular area of land, as determined by an analysis of the economic and environmental consequences and the alternative uses foregone. A unit of land may be suitable for a variety of individual or combined management practices.
Suitable Timber Base	Lands that include timber harvesting as an identified and scheduled management practice.
Supra Layer	Isolated trees that project above the other trees by at least 25 per cent of their height.

Survey	An exercise in which a set of qualitative or quantitative observations are made, usually by means of a standardized procedure and within a restricted period of time, but without any preconception of what the findings ought to be.
Sustainable (ecological)	The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.
Sustained Yield	The yield that a renewable resource can produce continuously at a given intensity of management.
Temporary Openings	Areas of grass/forbs and shrubs usually resulting from timber harvest that will be replaced by tree saplings over a period of a few years: (in contrast to permanent non-forested openings).
Temporary Roads or Trails	A road or trail on National Forest System land necessary for emergency operations or authorization, which is not a forest road or trail and that is not included in a Forest transportation atlas.
Tentatively Suitable Forest Land	Forest land that is producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood; and a) has not been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary, or the Chief; b) existing technology and knowledge is available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soils productivity, or watershed conditions; c) existing technology and knowledge, as reflected in current research and experience, provides reasonable assurance that it is possible to restock adequately within five years after final harvest; and d) adequate information is available to project responses to timber management activities.
Terrace/Terrace Wall	A “terrace” is any long, narrow, and relatively level or gently inclined surface, generally less broad than a plain, bounded along one edge by a steeper descending slope and along the other by a steeper ascending slope (Jackson 1997). “Terrace Wall” is the ascending slope described above.
Thermal Cover	Vegetative cover used by animals against weather.
Thinning	Silvicultural treatment where trees are removed to provide improved growing conditions for remaining trees. This method is used in immature stands to reduce stand density of trees primarily to improve growth and/or form, enhance forest health, or recover potential mortality.
Threatened Species	Official designation by USDI Fish and Wildlife Service applied to any species which is likely to become endangered throughout all or a significant portion of its range within the foreseeable future.
Timber Production	The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees for cutting into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use. For purposes of forest planning, timber production does not include fuelwood or harvests from unsuitable lands (FSM 1900).
Timberland	Forest land that is producing, or capable of producing, in excess of 20 cubic feet per acre per year of industrial wood crops under natural conditions. In addition, the forest land must not be withdrawn from timber utilization, and not associated with urban or rural development. Currently inaccessible and inoperable areas are included.
Tip-ups	The root wad of a tree which has fallen and is exposed as a large, more or less vertical tangle of roots and adhering soil.
Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)	The maximum amount of a pollutant that a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. Also refers to the process of allocating pollutant loadings among point and non-point sources. Also refers to a written plan and analysis of an impaired water body established to ensure that the water quality standards will be attained and maintained throughout the water body in the event of reasonably foreseeable increases in pollutant loads.

Traditional	The beliefs, acts, practice, objects, or sites for the perpetuation of a Native American culture originating from or historically located at a specific area. This may include traditional cultural practices that are so interrelated with spiritual activities that they cannot be separated from the land location.
Trailhead	The transfer point between a trail and a road, lake, or airfield. The area may have developments that facilitate the transfer from one transportation mode to another. (FSM 2353.18). The parking, signing, or other facilities available at the beginning of a trail.
Travel Management Rule (TRM)	A Rule that revised regulations regarding travel management on National Forest System lands to clarify policy related to motor vehicle use, including off-highway vehicles. The Travel Management Rule requires the Forest Service to designate a system of roads, trails and/or areas as open for motorized use, and prohibits the use of motor vehicles off the designated systems, except for over-the-snow vehicles (36 CFR Parts 212, 261 and 295).
Trail	A commonly used term denoting a pathway for purposes of travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicles (FSM 2353.05).
Treatment (Vegetation)	Any activities undertaken to modify or maintain the existing condition of the vegetation (e.g. Vegetative management).
Treaty Rights	Rights related to hunting, gathering, and fishing retained by Native American Tribal members.
Tribe	Term used to designate a federally recognized group of Native American Indians and their governing body. Tribes may comprise more than one band.
Turnout	A short auxiliary lane on a one-lane road provided for the passage of meeting vehicles (EM 7720-100R).
Unauthorized Roads and Trails	A road or trail that is not necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest system and the use and development of its resources; and not included on a Forest transportation atlas or a motor vehicle use map (36 CFR 212.1).
Unclassified Roads and Trails	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. Unclassified roads and trails can become unauthorized as a result of a written prohibition or other administrative action.
Uneven-aged	A term usually used as "uneven-aged stand" or "uneven-aged management", which identifies a stand containing three or more age classes of trees. A planned sequence of treatments designed to maintain and regenerate a stand with three or more age classes. Examples are individual tree and group selection harvest.
Upland Conifer	A grouping of conifer species that grow on well-drained sites such as jack pine, red pine, white pine, and upland black spruce.
Upland Hardwoods	A grouping of hardwood tree species which grow on well-drained sites and are often dominated by sugar maple, but also may contain red maple, yellow birch, white ash, green ash, American basswood, black cherry, Northern red oak, ironwood, and paper birch. Aspen, hemlock and white pine are also other associated species.
Utility Rights-of-Way	A tract of land of varying width forming a passageway across the Forest through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.
Vascular Plant	Any of a large group of plants which has conductive tissue (xylem and phloem), trees, shrubs, vines, fern, grasses, sedges, rushes, wildflowers, and other herbs.

Vegetation Alliance	A level of the National Vegetation Classification of existing vegetation. An alliance is a terrestrial plant community that is distinguished from other alliances by dominant or diagnostic species found in the canopy layer. The concept of an alliance is similar to a “cover type.” A cover type includes one or more alliances when the dominant species are widespread over varied environmental conditions (Faber-Langendoen, K., K. Snow, and L.E. Tyrrell. 2000. Establishing a Region-Wide Network of Representative Research Natural Areas: An Assessment for the Eastern Region’s RNA Framework. Unpublished draft for the Eastern Region, Milwaukee, WI).
Vegetative Community	A grouping of forest types from the forest inventory that is commonly associated in similar environments. This grouping is used to identify Management Areas with common goals, objectives and direction.
Viable Populations	The number of individuals in a species, which is sufficient to ensure the long-term existence of the species in natural, self-sustaining populations and are adequately distributed throughout their range.
Visual Quality Objectives (VQO)	A resource management objective that reflects the desired level of scenic quality (visual quality) based on the physical characteristics and social concern for the area. Five categories of VQO are commonly used: preservation, retention, partial retention, modification, and maximum modification (See Forest Plan Appendix G, Scenery Management).
Watershed	The area, from which all surface water drains to a common point, commonly thought of as the area that drains water into a given lake or stream.
Watershed Health	The expression of ecological composition, structure and function at the scale of the watershed. Same as watershed integrity.
Wetlands	Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas and have been identified as palustrine areas by the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.
Wheelchair or Mobility Device	A 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. A person whose disability requires use of a wheelchair or mobility device may use a wheelchair or mobility device that meets this definition anywhere foot travel is permitted (Title V, sec. 507c, of the American with Disabilities Act).
Whole Tree Logging	Felling and transporting the whole tree with its crown, and sometimes even its roots, for trimming and cross-cutting at a landing or mill.
Wilderness	An area of undeveloped federal land designated by Congress that has the following characteristics: 1) It is affected primarily by the forces of nature, where people are visitors who do not remain. It may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value; 2) It possesses outstanding opportunities for solitude, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and 3) It is an area large enough so that continued use will not change its unspoiled natural condition.
Wildfire	Any wildland fire not designated or managed as a prescribed fire within an approved prescription.
Wildland Fire Use	Prescribed natural fire is a fire burning under specified conditions, to accomplish certain planned objectives; the fire may result from either planned or unplanned ignitions. A prescribed natural fire plan is one that permits certain fires to burn in a manner that duplicates natural conditions as much as possible. The policy allows for fire ignited by lightning to burn under pre-planned, specific conditions and objectives.

Wildland Urban Interface	The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.
Windthrow	Trees uprooted by wind.
Winter Road	Roads only used during frozen roadbed conditions and closed in other seasons. They usually are constructed to reduce ground disturbance, often without removal of existing topsoil and utilizing snow and ice as part of the road surface. They are typically OML 1 roads when not maintained for winter use, and move up to an OML 2 road when used.
Xeric	Refers to site conditions that are wet or moist; excessive moisture may be limiting (Hanson, 1992).
Zone of Influence	A zone of influence is the land and/or water area that contributes to and affects the survival of an individual or population. This zone varies by species and can include such areas as the nest or den, fledging zone, foraging territory, courting display grounds, areas upstream and downstream, area needed to maintain water, shade, light, or microclimate regimes, and others.