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Glossary

A

Adaptive Management—Adaptive management is a systematic, interdisciplinary process for continually improving management policies and practices by learning from the outcomes of operational programs through monitoring.

Affected Environment—The physical and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes resulting from the proposed actions.

Air Quality—Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act, P.L. 88-206:Jan., 1988.

Airshed—A geographic area that, due to topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air.

Allotment—A grazing allotment is a parcel of federal land that is managed under one permit to be used by livestock under certain conditions.

Alternative—A mix of management prescriptions applied to specific land areas to achieve a set of goals and objectives. The alternative provides management direction for the proposed project that reflects identified public and management concerns for the Analysis Area.

Analysis Area—The Analysis Area is on National Forest lands and public lands administered by the BLM in parts of Modoc, Lassen, Shasta and Siskiyou counties, California and in Washoe County, Nevada. The Analysis Area covers approximately 6.5 million acres of public and private land.

Animal Unit Month (AUM)—The amount of forage required by one animal unit (AU) for one month is called an Animal Unit Month (AUM). One animal unit is defined as a 1,000 lb. beef cow with or without a nursing calf with a daily requirement of 26 lb. of dry matter forage.

B

Background—That part of a scene, landscape, etc., which is furthest from the viewer, usually from 3 miles to infinity from the observer.

Basal Area—The area of the cross section of a tree stem near the base, generally at breast height and inclusive of bark.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)—Practices determined by the state to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution generated by nonpoint sources to meet water quality goals.

Big Game—Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

Big Game Summer Range—A range, usually at higher elevation, used by deer and elk during the summer. Summer ranges are usually much more extensive than winter ranges.

Big Game Winter Range—A range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory deer and elk during the winter months; more clearly defined and smaller than summer ranges.

Biological Diversity (Biodiversity)—The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area.

Biological Evaluation—A documented USFS review of activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species.

Board Foot (bf)—The amount of wood equivalent to 1 foot by 1-inch thick.

Broadcast Burn—Allowing a prescribed fire to burn over a designated area within well-defined boundaries for reduction of a fuel hazard or as a silvicultural treatment or both.

Browse—Twigs, leaves, and young shoots of trees and shrubs on which animals feed.

C

Canopy—The more-or-less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees.

Cavity—The excavated hollow in trees by birds or other natural phenomena; used for roosting and reproduction by many birds and mammals.

Cavity Excavator—An animal that constructs cavities in trees for nesting or roosting.

Chipping—The reduction of woody residue by a portable chipper to chips that are left to decay on the forest floor.

Classified Road—A road that is constructed or maintained for long-term highway vehicle use. Classified roads may be public, private, or forest development.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)—The listing of various regulations pertaining to management and administration of the National Forests.

Compaction—The packing together of soil particles by forces exerted at the soil surface, resulting in increased soil density.

Compartments—A geographic area delineated by a subwatershed drainage for management planning purposes.

Condition Class—A grouping of timber stands into size-age-stocking classes for Forest planning.

Conifer—Any of a group of needle and cone-bearing evergreen trees.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)—An advisory council to the President, established by NEPA. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Cover—Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators or to escape the adverse effects of weather.

Cover complexity—Cover complexity is a qualitative rating of the combinations of different types of cover in one habitat unit. Greater cover complexity would be expected to yield greater fish abundance.

Cultural Resources—The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by humans in the past-historic or prehistoric.

Cumulative Effect—The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other actions. Cumulative impacts can also result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Cumulative Effects Area (CEA)—The area that is used for assessing cumulative impacts (see above).

D

Decision Area—The geographic area defining the scope of this document and the alternatives proposed by it.

Decommissioning—Some of the roads are discussed in terms of “decommissioning.” This term is used to refer to a specific type of road closure. On a decommissioned road, access would be controlled by means of a moderately sized berm or “tank trap” impassable to vehicles but capable of being easily bulldozed to permit vehicle passage if the road is recommissioned in the future. For all decommissioned roads, water bars are installed, the road bed is seeded, all culverts are removed, and self-maintaining cross-road drainage is provided.

Developed Recreation—Recreation dependent on facilities provided to enhance recreation opportunities in concentrated use areas. Examples are ski areas, resorts, and campgrounds.

Diameter at Breast Height (dbh)—The diameter of a tree measured 4 ft, 6 inches above the ground.

Dispersed Recreation—Recreation that occurs outside of developed recreation sites requiring few, if any, facilities or other improvements and includes such activities as hunting, hiking, viewing scenery, and cross-country skiing.

Displacement of Soil—The movement of the forest floor (litter, duff, and humus layers) and surface soils from one place to another by mechanical forces such as a blade used in piling and

windrowing. Mixing of surface soil layers by disking, chopping, or bedding operation is not considered displacement.

Duff—An organic surface soil layer below the litter layer in which the original form of plant and animal matter cannot be identified with the unaided eye.

E

Ecosystem—Any community of organisms along with its environment, forming an interacting system.

Ecotone—The boundary or transition zone between adjacent plant communities.

Edge—Where plant communities meet or where successional stage or vegetation conditions within the plant community come together.

Effects (or impacts)—Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable or cumulative.

Endangered Species—Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Endemic—Native to or confined to a certain region.

Environment—The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

Environmental Assessment (EA)—A concise public document which serves to (a) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a finding of No Significant Impact, (b) aid an agency's compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary, or (c) facilitate preparation of an EIS when necessary.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—A detailed summary prepared by the responsible official in which a major federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action provided, and the effects analyzed.

Epidemic—The populations of plants, animals and diseases that build-up, often rapidly, to highly abnormal and generally injurious levels.

Erosion—The detachment and transport of individual soil particles by wind, water, or gravity.

F

Fauna—Animals, including lesser forms such as insects, mites, etc.

Fire Regime Condition Class—A natural fire regime is a general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human mechanical intervention, but including the influence of aboriginal burning. The five natural (historical) fire regimes are classified based on average number of years between fires (fire frequency) combined with the severity (amount of replacement) of the fire on the dominant overstory vegetation.

Floodplain—The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters, including, at a minimum, that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Flora—Plants

Focus Area—Within the Analysis Area, there is an identified Focus Area that contains the sage steppe ecosystem and includes all areas that are proposed for restoration treatment.

Forage—All browse and non-woody plants that are available to livestock or game animals and used for grazing or harvested for feeding.

Forage Areas—Vegetated areas with less than 60 percent combined canopy closure of tree and tall shrub (greater than 7 feet in height).

Forb—An herbaceous plant that is not a graminoid.

Foreground—That part of a scene, landscape, etc., that is nearest to the viewer, and in which detail is evident, usually $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from the observer.

Fuel Treatment—Manipulation or reduction of natural or activity fuels (generated by a management activity such as slash left from logging) to reduce fire hazard.

Fuels—Combustible materials present in the forest that potentially contribute a significant fire hazard.

G

Growing Season—That part of the year when temperatures and moisture are favorable for vegetation growth.

H

Habitat—The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species.

Habitat Type—An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax stage.

Hiding Cover—Vegetation capable of hiding 90 percent of a standing adult deer or elk at 200 feet or less. Includes some shrub stands and all forested stand conditions with adequate tree stem density or shrub layer to hide animals. In some cases, topographic features also can provide hiding cover.

I

Immediate Foreground—The part of the foreground that is extremely critical for visual detail, usually within 400 feet of the observer.

Indicator Species—See Management Indicator Species.

Indirect Effects—Secondary effects that occur in locations other than the initial action or significantly later in time.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team—A group of professional specialists with expertise in different resources that collaborate to develop and evaluate management alternatives.

Interdisciplinary Approach—Utilization of one or more individuals representing areas of knowledge and skills focusing on the same task, problem, or subject. Team member interaction provides needed insight to all stages of the process.

Intermittent Stream—A stream that runs water in most months, but does not run water during the dry season of most years.

Invertebrates—Animals having no backbone such as earthworms, insects, and lesser animals.

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

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

Issue—A subject or question of public discussion or interest to be addressed or discussed in the planning process.

L

Land Allocation—The assignment of a management emphasis to particular land areas with the purpose of achieving goals and objectives. Land allocation decisions are documented in environmental analysis documents such as the Idaho Panhandle National Forests' Final EIS and Forest Land and Resource Management Plans.

Landtype—A unit of land with similar designated soil, vegetation, geology, topography, climate, and drainage. The basis for mapping units in the land systems inventory.

Limiting Factor—The environmental influence that exceeds the tolerance limit of an animal to restrict it in its activities, functions, or geographic range.

Litter—An organic surface soil layer usually composed of identifiable leaves, branches, or other vegetative material, and animal remains.

M

Management Area—Geographic areas, not necessarily contiguous, that have common management direction, consistent with the Forest Plan allocations.

Management Direction—A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

Management Indicator Species—A species selected because its welfare is presumed to be an indicator of the welfare of other species sharing similar habitat requirements. A species of fish, wildlife, or plants that reflect ecological changes caused by land management activities.

Management Prescriptions—A set of land and resource management policies that, as expressed through Standards and Guidelines, creates the Desired Future Condition over time.

Middleground—The part of a scene or landscape that hits between the foreground and background zones.

Mitigation—Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impacts of a management practice.

Model—A formalized expression of a theory to describe, analyze, or understand a particular concept.

Monitoring and Evaluation—The evaluation, on a sample basis, of Forest Plan management practices to determine how well objectives are being met, as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

Mortality—In forestry, trees in a stand that die of natural causes.

Mulching—Covering the surface of the soil with natural (e.g., litter) or deliberately applied organic materials (e.g., straw, wood chips, foliage).

N

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process—An interdisciplinary process that concentrates decisionmaking around issues, concerns, alternatives, and the effects of alternatives on the environment.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)—Law passed in 1976 as an amendment to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, requiring preparation of Regional Guides and Forest Plans, and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

Natural Regeneration—Reforestation of a site by natural seeding from the surrounding trees. Natural regeneration may or may not be preceded by site preparation.

Noxious Weed—A plant species that is highly injurious or destructive and has a great potential for economic impact.

O

Obliteration—Obliteration of an existing road would involve removal of all culverts, establishing permanent drainages, and recontouring of the road surface.

Old Growth Habitat—Habitat for certain wildlife that is characterized by mature coniferous forest stands with large snags and decaying logs.

Optimum Habitat—The amounts and arrangement of cover and forage that results in the greatest level of production that is consistent with other resource requirements.

P

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

Pathogen—A specific causative agent of disease, such as a virus.

Peak Flow—The greatest flow attained during the melting of the winter snowpack.

Perennial Streams—Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

Pioneer Species—A plant capable of invading a bare site (newly exposed soil surface) and persisting there until replaced by another species or community as succession progresses.

Plant Community—An assembly of plants living together.

Preferred Alternative—The alternative recommended for implementation in the EIS (40 CFR 1502.14).

Prescribed Burning—The application of fire to fuels in either a natural or modified state under such conditions as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to

produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to further certain planned objectives (i.e., silviculture, wildlife management, reduction of fuel hazard, etc.).

Prescription—Management practices selected and scheduled for application on a designated area to attain specific goals and objectives.

Public Road—A road open to public travel that is under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority such as states, counties, and local communities.

R

Range of Alternatives—An alternative is one way of managing the National Forest, expressed as management emphasis leading to a unique set of goods and services being available to the public. A range of alternatives is several different ways of managing the Forest, offering many different levels of goods and services.

RARE II—The acronym for the second Roadless Area Review and Evaluation conducted by the Forest Service in 1979 that resulted in an inventory of roadless areas considered for potential wilderness designation.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)—A system for defining the types of outdoor recreation opportunities the public might desire and identifies that portion of the spectrum a given area might be able to provide. It is used for planning and managing the recreation resource and recognizes recreation activity, setting, and experience opportunities.

Rehabilitation—To return environments into good health.

Research Natural Area—An area in as near a natural condition as possible, that exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, soil, geological, and aquatic features. The area is set aside to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes; commercial and general public use is not allowed.

Restricted Road—A National Forest road or segment that is restricted from a certain type of use or all uses during certain seasons of the year or yearlong. The use being restricted and the time period must be specified. The closure is legal when the Forest Supervisor has issued and posted an order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.

Riparian—Pertaining to areas of land directly influenced by water. Riparian areas usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics reflecting this water influence. Stream sides, lake borders, or marshes are typical riparian areas. Riparian vegetation borders watercourses, lakes, or swamps; it requires a high water table.

Road—A vehicle travel way of over 50 inches wide.

Road Maintenance—The upkeep of the entire Forest Development Transportation Facility including surface and shoulders, parking and side areas, structures, and any traffic control devices as are necessary for its safe and efficient utilization.

Roadless Area—A National Forest System area that is larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller than 5,000 acres, is contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area; contains no roads, and has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion into the wilderness preservation system.

S

Sage Steppe Obligate - Species requiring sagebrush vegetation as a major part or all of their life history requirements, specifically within the Great Basin ecosystems.

Scoping—The procedures by which the Forest Service determines the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action, i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed, identification of significant issues related to a proposed action, and establishing the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignment.

Sediment—Any material carried in suspension by water that will ultimately settle to the bottom. Sediment has two main sources—from the channel itself and from upslope areas.

Seedlings and Saplings—Non-commercial size young trees.

Sensitive Species—Those species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density or habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Series—A group of habitat types having the same climax tree species.

Site Productivity—Production capability of specific areas of land.

Slash—The residue left on the ground after felling and other silvicultural operations and/or accumulating there as a result of storm, fire, girdling, or poisoning of trees.

Snag—A standing dead tree usually without merchantable value for timber products, but may have characteristics of benefit to some cavity nesting wildlife species.

Special Use Permit—A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of National Forest land for some special purpose.

Stand—A community of trees or other vegetation uniform in composition, constitution, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from other adjacent communities.

Stand Replacing Fire—A fire that consumes an entire stand of trees. These fires are generally quite hot and can burn hundreds of acres.

Stream Order—It is often convenient to classify streams within a drainage basin by systematically defining the network of branches. Each nonbranching channel segment (smallest size) is designated a *first-order stream*. A stream which receives only first-order segments is

termed a *second-order stream*, and so on. The order of a particular drainage basin is determined by the order of the principle or largest segment.

Succession—The progressive changes in plant communities toward climax habitat.

Successional Stage—A stage or recognizable condition of a plant community which occurs during its development from the bare ground to climax habitat.

T

Talus—The loose accumulation of fragmented rock material on slopes, such as at the base of a cliff.

Thermal Cover—Vegetative cover used by animals to modify the adverse affects of weather.

Thinning—Cutting in even-aged stands to redistribute growth potential or benefit the quality of the residual stand.

Threatened Species—Any species of plant or animal that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Tiering—Refers to the coverage of general matters in broader EISs or EAs with subsequent other related statements in the EAs incorporated, by reference. The discussions contained in the previous document are incorporated, solely for issues specific to the statement subsequently prepared.

U

Unclassified Road—A road that is not constructed, maintained, or intended for long-term highway use, such as roads constructed for temporary access and other remnants of short-term use roads associated with fire suppression, timber harvest, and oil, gas, or mineral activities, as well as travel ways resulting from off-road vehicle use.

Understory—Vegetation (trees or shrubs) growing under the canopy formed by taller trees.

Ungulate—A mammal having hoofs, i.e., deer, elk, and moose.

Unroaded Area – An area that does not contain classified roads.

V

Vertebrates—Animals having a backbone, or a spinal column, including mammals, fishes, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

Viable Population—A population that has adequate numbers and dispersion of reproductive individuals to ensure the continued existence of the species population on the planning area.

Viewshed—Subunits of the landscape where the scene is contained by topography similar to a watershed.

Visual Condition Class (VCC)—A measure of the level of disturbance to the visual resource, expressed in acres. The visual condition classes are used as indicators to measure the existing conditions and effects of alternatives.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO)— A US Forest Service system of indicating the potential expectations of the visual resource by considering the frequency an area is viewed and the type of landscape.

Visual Resource Management (VRM)— A BLM system to inventory visual resources, to establish levels of management by assigning visual resource class objectives, and to evaluate visual impacts.

Visual Resource—The composite of landforms, water features, vegetative patterns, and cultural features which create the visual environment.

W

Water Yield—The measured output of the forest's streams.

Watershed—Entire area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.

Wetlands—Areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

Wilderness—All lands included in the National Wilderness Preservation System by public law; generally defined as undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)—Lands that are being evaluated to determine their ability to be included in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wildfire—Any wildfire not designated and managed as a prescribed fire with an approved prescription.

Wildland Fire Use—Naturally caused wildfires that are allowed to burn within controlled areas to achieve natural resource objectives.

Wildlife Diversity—The relative degree of abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features.