3.3.11. Appendix L: List of Acronyms and Glossary of Terms

13/13	Seasonal employee, guaranteed 13 pay periods of work per y
18/8	Seasonal employee, guaranteed 18 pay periods of work per y
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ACS	Aquatic Conservation Strategy
AFMO	Assistant Fire Management Officer
AMA	Adaptive Management Area
AMR	Appropriate Management Response
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
AQRV	Air Quality Related Values
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAR	Community at Risk
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFPA	Coos Forest Protective Association
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CLNP	Crater Lake National Park
CSNM	Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DFPA	Douglas Forest Protective Association
DM	Decision Memo
DN	Decision Notice
DOI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ESR	Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation
ESU	Evolutionary Significant Unit
FACTS	Forest Service Activity Tracking System
FASTRACS	Fuels Analysis, Smoke Tracking, and Report Access Computer System
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency

FIL	Fire Intensity Level
FMO	Fire Management Officer
FMP	Fire Management Plan
FMU	Fire Management Unit
FPA	Fire Program Analysis
FPU	Fire Planning Unit
FR	Federal Register
FRCC	Fire Regime Condition Class
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
GF	General Forest
GFMA	General Forest Management Area
ha	Hectare
HFI	Healthy Forest Initiative
HFRA	Healthy Forest Restoration Act
HRC	Human Resource Coordinator
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
IFPL	Industrial Fire Protection Level
IMPROVE	Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
IVMP	Interagency Vegetation Monitoring Project
JJLCG	Josephine-Jackson Local Coordinating Group
L.C.E.S.	Lookouts, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety Zones
LRMP	Land and Resource Management Plan
LSE	Late Successional Emphasis
LSR	Late-Successional Reserve
LUA	Land Use Allocation
MA	Management Area
MICC	Medford Interagency Communications Center
MIS	Management Indicator Species
MIST	Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MS	Management Strategy
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NASF	National Association of State Foresters
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act
NFP	National Forest Plan
NFPORS	National Fire Plan Operations & Reporting System
NFR	Natural Fire Rotation
NFS	National Forest System

NFSL	National Forest System Lands
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPS	National Park Service
NSO	Northern Spotted Owl
NWCG	National Wildfire Coordinating Group
NWFP	Northwest Forest Plan
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODEQ	Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODF SW	Oregon Department of Forestry, Southwest Oregon District
ODFW	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
ONHP	Oregon Natural Heritage program
OR	Oregon
P.L.	Public Law
PAG	Plant Association Group
PFT	Permanent Full Time
PL	Phytophthora lateralis
PM10	Particulate Matter 10 micrometers in size
PM2.5	Particulate Matter 2.5 micrometers in size
PNW	Pacific Northwest
POC	Port Orford Cedar Root Disease
PUR	Public Use Restriction
R6	Forest Service Region Six
RAWS	Remote Automated Weather Station
RD	Ranger District
RIA	Rural Interface Area
RIEC	Regional Interagency Executive Committee
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
RRNF	Rogue River National Forest
RRSNF	Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest
RS	Revised Statute
S&G	Standard and Guideline
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SNF	Siskiyou National Forest
SOD	Sudden Oak Death
SWO	Southwest Oregon
SWOCG	Southwest Oregon Coordination Group
SWOFPU	Southwest Oregon Fire Planning Unit
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
US	United States

USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of Interior
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFS	US Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VMS	Visual Management System
WFDSS	Wildland Fire Decision Support System
WFSA	Wildland Fire Situation Analysis
WFU	Wildland Fire Use
WIMS	Weather Information Management System
WO	Washington Office (Forest Service)
WOPR	Western Oregon Plan Revisions
WUI	Wildland Urban Interface

Glossary of Terms

The following are selected definitions, as of November 2008, from the *Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology*, published by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) in Boise, Idaho. In some cases, the definition has been modified for clarity to a more general audience. Copies of the full glossary are available at **http://www.nwcg.gov/pms/pubs/glossary/pms205.pdf**. Updates to the definitions of several terms took place via an April 30, 2010 memorandum from the NWCG (reference number NWCG#024-2010). Definitions provided here have been updated to reflect those changes in terminology.

Active Crown Fire – a fire in which a solid flame develops and spreads in the crowns of trees, but where continued spread in the crowns is dependent on the surface fire as well.

Activity Fuels – fuels resulting from, or altered by, land management practices, such as timber harvest or thinning.

Aerial Fuels – standing and supported live and dead combustible vegetation not in direct contact with the ground and consisting mainly of foliage, twigs, branches, stems, cones, bark, lichens, and vines. Also known as canopy fuels.

Appropriate Management Response – the response to a wildfire is based on evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety, the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions, natural and cultural resource management objectives, protection priorities, and values to be protected. The evaluation must also include an analysis of the context of the specific fire within the overall local, geographic, or national wildland fire situation. This term is now obsolete, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Available Fuel – that portion of the total vegetation that would actually burn under a given set of environmental conditions.

Backfire – a fire set along the inner edge of a fireline to consume the fuel in the path of a fire or change the direction of the fire or its convection column.

Backing Fire – a fire spreading into (against) the wind or downslope.

Blackline – burning fuel adjacent to a control line under cooler burning conditions to secure the line. Typically, this term is used for prescribed fires.

Benefits – fire effects with positive value or that contributes to the attainment of organizational goals. Synonym: Resource Benefits. Also known as Fire Benefits.

Burn Out – setting fire inside a control line to consume fuel between the edge of the fire and the control line. Typically, this term is used for unplanned ignitions.

Burn/Fire Severity – a qualitative assessment of the effects of a fire on a particular aspect environment such as soils, fuel consumption, and plant mortality.

Burning Period – that part of each 24-hour period when fires spread most rapidly; typically from 10:00 to sundown during the hottest, driest part of the fire season.

Cold Trailing – careful inspection and hand feeling of a partly dead fire edge to detect any hot spots and edges and either extinguishing the hot areas or constructing short segments of fireline.

Condition Class – see Fire Regime Condition Class

Confinement – a strategy under AMR that uses a combination of natural and constructed barriers, changes in fuel loading or type, and weather to restrict a fire to a specified area.

Containment/Contained – a status of a fire that indicates that control line has been completed around a fire and any associated spot fires, which is expected to prevent any additional fire spread.

Contingency Plan – a back-up plan of actions when the actions in the primary plan have failed or are expected to fail in the near future.

Control Line – all constructed and natural barriers and treated fire edges used to stop fire spread.

Controlled – a status of a fire that indicates sufficient actions have been taken to prevent any additional fire spread under the foreseeable conditions.

Creeping Fire – fire burning with low flame lengths and slow spread rates.

Crown Fire – a fire burning through the tops of trees or shrubs; used most often in forest fires.

Crown Out – a fire that rises from the ground into tree crowns; may involve just a single tree or a group of trees.

Crown Scorch – browning of needles or leaves in the crown of a tree or shrub caused by heating to lethal temperatures; may not be apparent until several days to weeks after a fire has passed.

Crowning Potential – the probability that a crown fire may start; based on the moisture content of the foliage, the height of the lowest part of the tree crowns above the surface and surface fire flame lengths.

Direct Attack/Direct Line – any action applied directly to the burning fuel, such as wetting, smothering, or chemically quenching the fire or by constructing control line either directly along the burning edge or a short distance away (few inches to few feet).

Draped Fuels – needles, leaves, and twigs that have fallen from trees and have lodged in the lower branches or the crowns of shrubs; considered a part of aerial fuels.

Drift Smoke – smoke that has moved from its point of origin and is no longer dominated by convective motion; usually applied to smoke near the surface.

Dry Lightning Storm – a thunderstorm in which little or no rain reaches the surface.

Duff – the layer of decomposing needle and twigs lying below the loose litter and above the soil; the material in duff has been consolidated into a solid mass by fungal hyphae.

Escape Route – a planned route firefighters take to move away from a threatening fire and into a safer area.

Escaped Fire – a fire which has exceeded or is expected to exceed the initial actions taken.

Escaped Prescribed Fire – prescribed fire that has exceeded or is expected to exceed prescription parameters or otherwise meets the criteria for conversion to a wildfire. Criteria for conversion are specified in “Interagency Prescribed Fire – Planning and Implementation Procedures Reference Guide”.

Extended Attack – additional actions taken on a fire that has exceeded the capability of the initial forces and for which more firefighting forces have arrived, are en route, or are being ordered by the initial attack incident commander.

Extreme Fire Behavior – fire behavior that precludes the use of direct attack actions and is generally unpredictable and erratic. Examples include very high rates of spread, extensive crowning or spotting, and the presence of fire whirls.

Fine Fuels – fast-drying dead or live vegetation (grass, needles, leaves, etc.) that ignites readily and is consumed rapidly by fire when dry. Also called flash or flashy fuels.

Fire Front – the part of the fire where continuous flaming combustion, or the most active spread, is taking place.

Fire Hazard/Hazardous Fuels – the mix, arrangement and condition of burnable vegetation that determines how easily fires will start and spread and how difficult it will be to control the fire.

Fire Intensity – the rate of heat released per unit of time per length of fire front; roughly equivalent to flame length.

Fire Management – all activities related to the management of wildland fires.

Fire Regime – a description of the patterns of fire occurrences, frequencies, sizes, and severities in a given area or ecosystem.

Fire Regime Condition Class – a measure of the relative degree of departure from historical fire regimes. "Historical" generally refers to the conditions and fire regimes present prior to Euro-American settlement and including the burning practices of Native Americans as well as natural ignitions.

Fire Regime Groups – a classification of fire regimes into discrete categories usually based on frequency and severity. At present, five groups are used on a national basis.

Fire Risk – the chance of a fire starting.

Fire Season – the time of year when wildland fires are likely to start and spread. A legally enacted time during which burning activities are regulated by federal, state or local authority; sometimes called 'declared fire season.'

Fire Severity – the degree to which a given location or environmental factor has been altered or disrupted by fire.

Fire Type – the type of fire based on whether the ignition was planned (type: prescribed) or unplanned (type: wildfire).

Fire Whirl – a spinning vortex of ascending hot air and flammable gases, similar to a dust devil, that also includes flames.

Firebrand – flaming or glowing particles of fuel carried by wind, convection currents or gravity into unburned fuels.

Firebreak – a natural or constructed barrier used to stop or slow fire spread and which may also serve as a control line.

Flame Depth – the width, from front to back, of the fire front.

Flame Height – the average maximum vertical extension of flames at the fire front; usually less than the flame length.

Flame Length – the average distance from the flame tip to the midpoint of the flame depth at the base of the flame, an indicator of fire intensity.

Flanking Fire – a fire spreading at right angles to the wind or upslope.

Flare-up – a sudden acceleration in the rate of fire spread or intensification of the fire, usually of relatively short duration.

Fuelbreak – a natural or human-made change in fuel arrangement or continuity that reduces fire behavior to a level that allows for easier control of fire spread.

Ground Fire – fire that burns organic material below the general surface or within the soil, such as peat.

Head Fire – a fire spreading with the wind or upslope.

Heavy Fuels/Coarse Fuels – fuels of large diameter, such as snags, logs and large limbs, which do not ignite readily and are consumed slowly. Also known as coarse woody debris.

Holdover Fire/Sleeper Fire – a fire that remains dormant or undetected for several days to a few weeks after actual ignition.

Hot-spotting – checking the fire spread at the points of more rapid spread or special threat.

Human-caused fire – any fire caused directly or indirectly by person(s).

Independent Crown Fire – a fire that advances through the crowns of trees that does not require energy from the surface fire to sustain combustion. Very rarely occurs.

Incident objectives – site specific guidance and direction necessary for the selection of appropriate strategy(s) and the tactical direction of resources on an incident.

Indirect Attack – a method of controlling the fire where the control line is located some distance (tens of feet or further) from the fire's active edge.

Initial Attack – an aggressive action to put the fire out consistent with firefighter and public safety and values to be protected.

Initial Response – immediate decisions and actions taken to react to an ignition. Synonym/formerly known as: Initial Action.

Ladder Fuels – fuels which provide vertical continuity from the ground to the tree crowns that allow fire to move with relative ease into the crowns.

Litter – the top layer of dead vegetation on the ground usually consisting of loose needles, leaves, twigs and small branches.

Mass Fire – a fire resulting from simultaneous or near-simultaneous ignitions of many firebrands.

Mop-up – extinguishing or removing burning material, felling snags, and trenching or turning logs to avoid rolling after an area has burned in order to control the fire or to reduce smoke production.

Natural Fuels – fuels resulting from natural processes and not directly generated or altered by land management activities.

Passive Crown Fire/Torching – a type of crown fire in which a single tree or group of trees are ignited by the passing fire front; these fires are basically not different from surface fires.

Peak Fire Season – that period of the fire season when fires are most likely to start and to burn with greater than average intensity.

Preparedness Level – increments of planning and organizational readiness commensurate with increasing fire danger and level of fire activity.

Prescribed Fire – any fire intentionally ignited by management under an approved plan to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met, prior to ignition. Synonym: Prescribed Burn, Controlled Burn.

Protection – management objective to limit the adverse physical, environmental, social, political, and/or economic effects of fire.

Reburn – repeat burning of an area over which a fire has previously passed but left fuel that later ignites when burning conditions are more favorable. Repeat burning of a previously burned area that has not yet recovered to a forested condition.

Rehabilitation – actions taken within 3 years of an unplanned fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover to management approved conditions within a specified time, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by a fire.

Residual Smoke – smoke produced by smoldering material.

Resistance to Control – the relative difficulty of constructing and holding a control line due to the type, amount and arrangement of fuel and by fire behavior.

Response to Wildland Fire – decisions and actions implemented to manage a wildland fire based on ecological, social, and legal consequences, the circumstances under which a fire occurs, and the likely consequences on firefighter and public safety and welfare, natural and cultural resources, and values to be protected.

Running Fire – a fire spreading rapidly with a well-defined head.

Safety Zone – an area cleared of flammable material into which firefighters can retreat and remain while a fire burns past the location and in which firefighters are not required to use their fire shelters to survive.

Scratch Line – an unfinished preliminary control line hastily built or constructed to check the spread of the fire.

Shaded Fuelbreak – a linear area where trees have been thinned and pruned to reduce the potential flame length yet leave enough canopy to make less favorable burning conditions for surface fires.

Slopover – a fire edge that crosses a control line or natural barrier intended to confine the fire.

Spot Fire – fire ignited outside the perimeter of the main fire by a firebrand.

Spotting – a form of fire behavior characterized by the production of firebrands that start spot fires.

Stand Replacing Fire – fire which kills or top-kills all or most of the trees, also explicitly the nature of fire in grasslands and many shrublands.

Suppression – management action to extinguish a fire or confining fire spread.

Surface Fire – fire that burns the material on the ground, such as needles, leaves, dead branches, duff and low vegetation.

Underburn – a fire that consumes the surface fuels, but not the aerial, or canopy, fuels.

Use of Wildland Fire – management of either wildfire or prescribed fire to meet resource objectives specified in Land/Resource Management Plans. Synonym: Fire Use.

Wildfire – an unplanned ignition caused by lightning, volcanos, unauthorized, and accidental human-caused actions and escaped prescribed fires. See Escaped Prescribed Fire.

Wildland Fire – a general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the vegetation and/or natural fuels.

Wildland Fire Use – the application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in an Implementation Plan. This term is now obsolete, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Synonym: I-Zone, Wildland/Urban Interface.

Additional Terms not Included in the NWCG Glossary

Ember Shower – a relatively dense grouping of firebrands usually resulting from a crown fire.

Full Control – a management response where the main objective is to halt further fire spread.

Management Response – any specific action suitable to meet land management objectives. Typically, a management response ranges across a spectrum of tactical options, from monitoring to intensive suppression actions. Response includes both fires that are suppressed and fires that are managed to attain or move toward Forest Plan desired conditions, goals and objectives.

Monitoring – a management response where the main objective is to observe fire behavior and fire spread to determine whether the fire will remain within designated boundaries and what level of damage or resource benefit the fire may be producing.

Naturally-ignited Wildfire – any fire caused directly or indirectly by naturally occurring means or processes such as lightning, volcanos, etc.

Perimeter Control – a management response where the main objective is to keep the fire from spreading beyond designated limits by using a combination of natural and constructed barriers, changes in fuel type or condition, and weather.

Planned Ignition – a fire intentionally set by authorized personnel following a prescribed fire plan. See “Prescribed Fire”.

Plant Association Group: A stratification used that is intermediate between forest series and plant associations. Plant Association Groups are used to organize and discuss vegetation conditions and ecosystem processes.

Point Protection/Point Control – a management response where the main objective is to keep fire from damaging or destroying a particular location.

Prescription Fire – see "Prescribed Fire"

Unplanned Ignition – a wildland fire that is not intentionally started by authorized personnel following a prescribed fire plan. Includes naturally ignited and unauthorized human-caused fires.

Unplanned Fire for Resource Benefit – The management of naturally-ignited fire to accomplish specific resource management objectives identified in the Forest Plan.