GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

Acronyms

This list of abbreviations and acronyms used in this document or the appendices is provided for quick reference. Terms that are not self-explanatory are defined in the Glossary, which follows.

ARRA	archaeological reconnaissance report addendum
ASQ	allowable sale quantity
BF	board foot (feet) of timber
BMP	best management practice
CAS	capable, available, and suitable
CASPO	California Spotted Owl Sierran Province Interim Guidelines
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CIA	compartment inventory analysis
CMAI	culmination of mean annual increment
CWE	cumulative watershed effect
DBH	diameter at breast height
DEIS	draft environmental impact statement
EIS	environmental impact statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERA	equivalent roaded acre
EVC	existing visual condition
FEIS	final environmental impact statement
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FY	fiscal year (USFS: October 1 - September 30)
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDT	interdisciplinary team
LRMP	Eldorado National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan
MA	management area
MAI	mean annual increment
MBF	thousand board feet (of timber)
MIS	management indicator species
MMBF	million board feet (of timber)
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1970
NF	National Forest
NFMA	National Forest Management Act of 1976
OHV	off-highway vehicle
PAC	Protected Activity Center (for spotted owl)
PM	particulate matter
PNV	present net value
RD	Ranger District
R5	Region 5: Pacific Southwest Region
ROS	recreation opportunity spectrum
RPA	Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
SAI	sale area improvement
SMZ	streamside management zone
SNEP	Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project
SO	Supervisor's Office
SOHA	spotted owl habitat area
T&E	threatened and endangered species
TOC	threshold of concern
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
VQO	visual quality objective
WHR	Wildlife Habitat Relationship

Glossary

activity fuels
Fuels which have been directly generated or altered by management activity.

adaptive management
The process of implementing policy decisions as scientifically driven management experiments that test predictions and assumptions in management plans. Adaptive management provides for scientifically based decisions when the results of management actions are uncertain.

age class
An interval, usually 10 to 20 years, into which the age range of vegetation is divided for classification or use.

allocation
The assignment of sets of management practices (prescriptions) to particular land areas to achieve the goals and objectives of the alternative.

allotment
An area designated for grazing a prescribed number and kind of livestock.

allowable sale quantity (ASQ)
The quantity of timber intended to be sold from the lands suitable for timber production covered by the Forest Plan for a time period specified by the Plan. This quantity is usually expressed on an annual basis as the "average annual allowable sale quantity."

aspect
The compass direction that the slope of a land surface faces.

back fire
A fire set in front of an advancing main fire intended to remove fuels so that the main fire is stopped, turned or controlled.

background
As used in setting visual quality objectives, the view beginning 3-5 miles from the observer and as far into the distance as the eye can detect the presence of objects.

basal area
The cross-sectional area of tree stems, including the bark, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground; expressed in square feet/acre.

benchmark
An analysis of the supply potential of a particular resource, or of a set of resources subject to specific management objectives or constraints. Benchmarks define the limits within which alternatives can be formulated.

best management practice (BMP)
A practice or a combination of practices that is determined to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals. BMPs include structural and/or nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. BMPs for National Forests in California are shown in Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California, USDA Forest Service, April 1979, and have been approved by the California Water Quality Control Board. The BMPs are under section 208 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500).

biodiversity (biological diversity)
The variety of life in an area, including the diversity of genes, species, plant and animal communities, or ecosystems, landscapes and the interaction of these elements.

biological evaluation (BE)

A detailed review of Forest Service activities done in conjunction with the NEPA process to determine whether a proposed action will result in a trend toward sensitive species becoming Federally listed under the Endangered Species Act.

biomass

The total quantity at a given time of the living organisms of one or more species per unit land area, or all of the species of a community. Also used to refer to the total above-ground mass of all trees in an area, especially when considering the harvest of small diameter trees to be used as chips for fuel (see cogeneration).

biotic

Refers to life; living.

board foot (BF)

The amount of wood equivalent to a piece 12 inches long by 12 inches wide.

browse

Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, and trees available for animal consumption, usually based on current year's growth; act of consuming browse.

canopy

The more-or-less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees in a stand or forest.

capability

The potential of an area of land to produce resources, and supply goods and service, while allowing resource uses under an assumed set of management practices at given levels of management intensity. Capability depends on current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, geology and management practices such as silviculture and protection from fire.

capable, available, suitable lands (CAS)

National Forest System lands that have been determined to be capable, available, and suitable for timber management.

CASPO Guidelines

Management prescriptions outlined in the CASPO Report that are designed to protect the viability of the spotted owl.

closed canopy

A condition that exists when the crowns of the trees in a stand cover 100 percent of the potential open space.

cogeneration

The process of generating electrical energy for public use by burning combustible materials such as wood chips, bark or leaves.

commodity

A resource product with commercial value; a tangible or physical output such as timber, forage, minerals, and water.

compartment

The unit of land that is most commonly used to initiate project-level planning and implementation.

corridor

Connective links of certain types of vegetation between patches of suitable habitat which are necessary for certain species to facilitate movement of individuals between patches of suitable habitat. Also refers to transportation or utility rights-of-way.

cover

Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators and weather conditions, or in which to reproduce.

cover/forage ratio
The ratio, in percent, of the amount of area in forage condition to the amount of that area in cover condition.

critical habitat
Key land areas used by wildlife for forage, reproduction, or cover. Physical and biological features within these areas may require special management to conserve certain species.

critical winter range
Locations that provide food and shelter for California mule deer under moderately severe to severe winter conditions.

crown
The upper part of a tree carrying the main branch system and foliage.

crown closure
Percent of canopy closure.

crown fire
A fire that advances through the canopy of trees or shrubs independently of the surface fire.

cruise
The process of determining timber volumes and quality in the field.

cubic foot per second (CFS)
Unit measure of streamflow or discharge, equivalent to 449 gallons per minute or about 2 acre-feet per day.

cull
Any lumber production item rejected because it does not meet certain specifications.

cultural (or heritage) resources
The tangible and intangible aspects of cultural systems, living and dead, that are valued by a given culture or contain information about the culture. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to, sites, structures, buildings, districts, and objects associated with or representative of people, cultures, human activities and events.

cumulative watershed effects (CWE)
Any change in watershed processes which are influenced by land management activities that accumulate in time or space. Several methodological approaches are used to evaluate CWEs, including Equivalent Roaded Acres (or ERA), the approach applied here.

debris flow
The sudden downslope movement of the soil mantle; occurring on steep slopes, it is caused by the complete saturation of the soil from prolonged heavy rains. Also known as a debris slide, or landslide.

decadence
Refers to decaying or declining tree stands.

decking area
A designated area in the forest used for loading logs onto trucks; usually 1/4 -1/3 acre.

dependent species
A species for which a habitat element (e.g., snags, vegetative type) is deemed essential in order for the species to occur regularly or to reproduce.

diameter at breast high (DBH)
The diameter of a tree measured 4 feet 6 inches above the ground on the uphill side.

dispersed recreation
Outdoor recreation which occurs outside of planned and maintained recreational facilities, e.g., scenic driving, hunting, backpacking.

diversity

The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan.

down logs

Logs lying on the ground. In this document, only logs greater than 15 inches in diameter and 20 feet in length are counted in retention levels.

duff

The layer of partially and fully decomposed organic materials (leaves, pine needles etc.) lying below the new forest litter and immediately above mineral soil.

economic efficiency

A measure of how efficiently inputs are used to achieve outputs when all costs and benefits can be identified and valued. Usually measured by present net value or cost-benefit ratios.

ecosystem

The living organisms of an area, the physical environment in which they live, and the interactions between them.

ecosystem management

The use of an ecological management approach that blends the needs of people and environmental values in such a way that the National Forests and Grasslands represent diverse, healthy, productive and sustainable ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems are those that maintain biological diversity, biotic integrity and ecological processes over time.

edge

The area where plant communities meet or where successional stages or vegetative conditions within plant communities come together.

effects

Effects, impacts and consequences are synonymous in this document. Effects may be adverse, beneficial, significant, insignificant, actual, potential, short or long term, unavoidable or irreversible. In NEPA documents, effects are usually analyzed in three categories--direct effects, or those occurring at the same time and place as the triggering action; indirect effects, or those removed in time or distance from the triggering action; and cumulative effects, which includes an assessment of the past actions coupled with the proposed action and any reasonably foreseeable (ie., planned) actions in the area in the future.

endangered species

Any species designated as Endangered by the Secretary of the Interior. Generally, a species which is reduced in numbers or distribution so as to be in danger of extinction.

environmental impact statement (EIS)

A statement of environmental effects for a major Federally-proposed action, which is released to the public and other agencies for comment and review prior to a final management decision. The EIS is first issued as a Draft (DEIS). The Final EIS (FEIS) addresses and responds to public and agency comments on the draft. The decision maker chooses which alternative to select from the Final EIS, and subsequently issues a Record of Decision (ROD). The EIS is required by Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

ethnographic group

Historically documented group or culture, herein meaning a relatively recent Native American (Indian) group.

equivalent road acres (ERA)

A method of categorizing the amount of soil compaction resulting from land management activities in terms of a common base - -a compacted road surface. Roads are assigned an ERA value of 1.00 and all other disturbed areas are assigned ERA values less than or equal to one. The values are generally less than one, as most other management activities do not cause 100 percent of the ground surface to become compacted.

even-aged stand

A forest stand composed of trees having no or relatively small differences in age.

fire intensity

The rate of heat energy released per unit length of fire front, usually expressed as BTU/second/foot. Fire intensity, or fire line intensity, is a measure of the difficulty of suppressing a fire, and helps project a fire's potential for torching, spotting and crowning.

fire line

A constructed area around a fire which is dug to mineral soil to remove fuels and thereby control the fire's spread. In general, for a fire line to be effective, it should be 1.5 times as wide as the height of the fuel that is burning. When fire lines are cut by crews using hand tools, they are often referred to as handlines; when cut by equipment such as a bulldozer, they are called dozer lines.

forage

All browse and nonwoody plants used for grazing or harvested for feeding livestock or game animals.

forb

Any non-grass like plant having little or no woody material on it. A palatable, broad-leaved, flowering herb whose stem, above ground, does not become woody and persistent.

foreground

The portions of a view between the observer and up to 1/4 or 1/2 mile distant.

forest cover type

A classification of forest land referring to a group of timber stands of similar development and species composition. Examples in California include the Douglas-fir, mixed conifer, pine, and true fir types.

fuel bed

The entire biomass live and dead, that is available to burn.

Fuelbreak

A wide strip or block of land on which native or pre-existing vegetation is open enough, or has been modified, so that fires burning into it can be more readily extinguished, or which will provide a safe area from which to work while controlling a fire. A *shaded fuel break* is one that retains a forested canopy, but with crown closure of less than 70%, such that a fire is unlikely to be carried through the canopy.

fuel loading

The oven-dry weight of all existing fuels in a given area. Loading is further analyzed by fuel size. Loading or mass per unit is usually expressed in tons per acre.

fuels

Any material capable of sustaining or carrying a wildland fire, usually natural material both live and dead.

fuel treatment

The rearrangement or disposal of natural or activity fuels to reduce fire hazard or to accomplish other resource management objectives.

fugitive dust

Particulate matter (PM), or solid particles, which originate primarily from soil. "Fugitive" dust is PM suspended in the air by wind and generated by wind and/or human activities, such as heavy equipment operations.

geomorphology

The study of the forms of the land surfaces and the processes creating them. Also the study of the underlying rocks or parent materials and the landforms present which were formed in geologic time.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

A geographic data collection system using a network of satellites to provide locational information.

goal

In Forest Planning, a goal is a concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved.

groundwater

Subsurface zone in the part of the ground that is wholly saturated with water.

habitat

The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by an organism, population, or community of plants and animals.

historic range of variability

Concept useful in defining ecosystem dynamics over time, the processes that change ecosystems, and the range of conditions that are feasible to maintain. The historic range of variability is often used as one reference point for a desired condition of an area or resource.

holding area

An area in which deer herds concentrate during a major migration.

home range

An area in which an individual animal spends all or most of its time.

hydrology

The properties, distribution and circulation of water; the study of water on the surface of land, in soil and in underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere, particularly with respect to precipitation, evaporation, infiltration, percolation, runoff and storage.

infiltration

The passage of water through the soil surface into the soil.

inner gorge

The lowermost slopes adjacent to stream channels having gradients in excess of 65%, separated from upslope areas by a distinct break in slope. The inner gorge is formed primarily by slides and surface erosion triggered by stream downcutting, oversteepening and undercutting.

intensive timber management

Timber management practices carried out to increase timber yield per acre.

interdisciplinary team (IDT)

A group composed of individuals with different training who solve a problem or perform a task through frequent interaction so that disciplines can combine to provide new solutions.

intermittent streams

A stream or portion of a stream that, in general, flows during wet seasons and is dry during dry seasons. The groundwater table lies above the bed of the stream during the wet season but drops below the bed during the dry season.

irretrievable effects

Applies to losses of production or use of renewable natural resources for a period of time. For example, timber production from an area is irretrievably lost during the time an area is used for skiing. If the use is changed, timber production can be resumed. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

irreversible effects

Decisions causing changes which cannot be reversed. Once used, the resource cannot be reinstated, nor can opportunities be recovered. Applies to nonrenewable resources, such as minerals, and cultural resources.

K-V funds

Funds collected and used for resource improvement on timber sale areas. The Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) Act of 1930 requires purchasers of National Forest timber to make deposits of money as part of the payment for the timber to cover the cost of reforestation and timber stand improvement. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 expanded this authority to include "protecting and improving the future productivity of the renewable resources of the forest land on such sale area, including sale area improvement operations, maintenance and construction, reforestation, and wildlife habitat management."

ladder fuels

Fuels that provide vertical continuity between the surface fuels and crown fuels in a forest stand, thus contributing to the ease of torching and the spread of fire into the crowns of trees.

landing

Any place where logs are assembled for further transport, commonly with a change in the transportation method, such as from tractor to truck.

landscape

A region which includes a variety of plant and animal communities and environments.

management area (MA)

A contiguous area of land used in planning to which one or more prescriptions are applied. Management areas are areas with similar characteristics, similar capability and common management direction. Management areas do not vary between alternatives; however, the prescriptions applied to them may vary.

management indicator species (MIS)

Species selected to represent fish, wildlife, or vegetation in directing and coordinating forest management and monitoring the effects of planned management activities.

management practice

A specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment.

management prescription

Management practices and levels of intensity selected and scheduled for application on a specific area to further forest goals and objectives.

mature timber

Trees that have attained full development, particularly height, and are in full seed production.

merchantable timber

Timber of saleable quality.

middle ground (middle distance)

As applied to visual quality objectives, the space between the foreground and the background in a picture or landscape. The area located from 1/4-1/2 to as much as 3-5 miles from the viewer.

minimum management requirement (MMR)

Absolute minimum requirements taken from 36 CFR 219.27 and generally outside of the Forest Service authority to change. They are needed for consistency of analysis between Forests.

mitigation

Actions to avoid, minimize, compensate, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the adverse effects of a management practice.

modification

See *visual quality objectives*.

monitoring and evaluation

The evaluation, on a sample basis, of Forest Plan management practices to determine how well objectives have been met, as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

mortality
Dead or dying trees resulting from forest fire, insects, diseases, climatic or other factors.

Native American
Person who is a member of an ethnographic Indian group or tribe which has a common set of traditions and history native to this continent.

natural fuels
Fuels not directly generated or altered by management activity. This includes fuels which have accumulated because of deliberate fire exclusion.

natural opening
A break in the forest canopy; an area of essentially bare soil, grasses, forbs, or shrubs in an area dominated by trees.

natural regeneration
The renewal of a tree crop by natural means, without human seeding or planting. The new crop is grown from self-sown seed or by vegetative means, such as root suckers.

objective
In Forest Planning, an objective is a concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and resources used in achieving identified goals.

off-highway vehicle (OHV)
Any motorized vehicle capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, or other natural terrain. Examples of OHVs include motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles and snowmobiles.

old growth
See *seral stages*.

opening
In timber terms, an area of forest land from which timber has been harvested (generally using even-aged silviculture). Openings will generally be 5 to 40 acres in size. An opening is no longer considered an opening when a specified number of trees per acre within a specific forest type and site class have reached 4.5 feet in height.

output
A product, service, or on-site use produced from forest and rangeland resources.

overstory
That portion of the trees in a forest which form the upper or uppermost layer.

overstory removal
Removal of the last seed-bearing or shelter trees after regeneration is considered to be established. Under a shelterwood method, it is the last removal cutting.

partial retention
See *visual quality objectives*.

perennial stream
A stream or portion of a stream that flows throughout the year. The groundwater table lies above the bed of the stream at all times.

plantation
A stand of trees resulting from planting or artificially seeding an area.

prescribed burn
Intentional use of fire under predetermined weather and fuel conditions to achieve specific objectives, e.g., disposal of slash, control of unwanted vegetation.

present value

The value which results when benefits or costs expected to occur in the future are discounted.

protected activity center (PAC)

A 300-acre protected area around known or suspected spotted owl nest sites.

receipts

Those benefits for which money will actually be paid to the Forest Service: recreation fees, timber sales, mineral leases, and special use fees.

reconstruction

Any modification, improvement, or renovation of an existing facility.

recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS)

A means of classifying and managing recreation opportunities based on physical setting, social setting, and managerial setting. The six different ROS classes, briefly described, are:

a. Primitive (P) - An area 3 miles or more from roads and trails with motorized use; generally 5,000 acres or more in an essentially unmodified natural environment.

b. Semi-primitive nonmotorized (SPNM) - An area 1/2 mile from roads and trails with motorized use; generally 2,500 to 5,000 acres with only subtle modifications to an otherwise natural setting.

c. Semi-primitive motorized (SPM) - Same as semi-primitive nonmotorized but with motorized use of roads and trails, including OHV touring, snowmobile, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.

d. Roaded natural (RN) - An area 1/2 mile or less from roads; resource modifications range from evident to strongly dominant.

e. Rural (R) - The setting is substantially modified with structures or other cultural modifications.

f. Urban (U) - The setting is strongly dominated by structures, highways, and streets.

regeneration

Reestablishing a crop of trees on forest land by natural or artificial methods. Also, the young crop itself, which commonly is referred to as reproduction.

regeneration cutting

Logging activities in stands to allow new trees to be planted; usually applied to stands which should be reforested because of poor stocking, health, thrift, quality, or composition.

resiliency

The ability of a landscape to recover quickly to the conditions and relationships which existed prior to a disturbance.

retention

See *visual quality objectives*.

return interval

The mean time between disturbances on any given piece of ground (sometimes known as a "cycle" or the "turnover time"). Fire return interval is the length of time between fires.

riparian area

Geographically delineated areas, with distinctive resource values and characteristics, that are comprised of both the terrestrial area adjacent to and inclusive of the riparian ecosystem and the aquatic ecosystems. Land areas to which limited management activities are applied in the interest of affording added protection to riparian area dependent

resources and water quality, including all areas adjacent to perennial streams, lakes, and other water bodies. Exact boundaries of riparian areas are determined by on-site surveys.

road types

Roughly categorized into three types: arterial, usually two-lane surface roads connecting with public highways; collector, single or double lane surfaced roads accessing small land areas; and local, generally native surface, single land roads accessing a single resource facility such as a landing, trailhead or campground. For maintenance purposes, roads are divided into "levels":

Level 1 -- These are intermittent service roads. Management direction requires that these roads be closed or otherwise blocked to traffic. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to protect the road and to keep damage to adjacent resources to an acceptable level.

Level 2 -- Level 2 is assigned where management direction requires that roads be open for limited passage of traffic. Traffic is normally minor, usually consisting of one or a combination of administrative, permitted, dispersed recreation, or other specialized uses. These roads are normally characterized as single-lane, primitive type intended for use by high clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration.

Level 3 -- Management direction requires these roads to be open and maintained for safe travel by a prudent driver in a passenger car. Traffic volumes are minor to moderate; however, user comfort and convenience is not considered a priority. Level 3 roads are normally characterized as low speed, single-lane with turnouts and spot surfacing.

Level 4 -- Level 4 is assigned where management direction requires the road to provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Traffic volumes normally require a double-lane aggregate surface road, although some are single-lane and are either paved or dust-abated, or both. These roads are normally classified as collector or minor arterial roads.

Level 5 -- Management direction requires these roads to provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double-lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surface and dust-abated. These roads are normally classified as arterials.

rotation

The length of time between the formation or regeneration of a tree stand and its final cutting. Also, rotation in a disturbance regime is used to refer to the average period of time over which an entire area becomes subject to disturbance (such as wildfire).

salvage

The harvest of trees that have been killed or are dying from fire, flood, windstorm, disease or insect attack to minimize wood fiber deterioration and protect the remaining trees.

sanitation cutting

The removal of dead, diseased, insect-infested, damaged, or otherwise low vigor trees to minimize losses from pests, prevent the spread of insects and disease, and improve or maintain net growth prior to regeneration cutting.

sawtimber

Collectively, the portions of trees suitable in size and quality for the production of lumber (see also *size class*).

scoping process

Process used to identify issues and concerns which are within Forest Service authority to resolve.

sedimentation

The transporting and disposition of loose soil and rock material by concentrated flows of water.

seed step cut

Regeneration cutting which removes all the mature timber except for the number of seed trees which are needed to provide seed for reproducing the stand.

sensitive species

Species recognized by the Regional Forester as needing special management in order to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened. Species designated by the Regional Forester and included on the Region's Sensitive Species list.

seral stages

Stages in the successional development of vegetation and associated animal communities that are distinguished by composition and structure from other phases, and generally divided into three phases:

Early Seral: Plant and animal communities that colonize an area immediately following a disturbance. Species are often called "pioneer species"; these are eventually replaced with mid-seral species through the process of succession.

Mid-Seral: Plant and animal species that cannot become established on freshly disturbed sites, but which replace early seral species through the process of succession.

Late Seral: Relatively stable plant and animal communities existing near the final, ecological climax stages of a forest; characterized by large, old trees (or "old growth"). Persists until a disturbance reverts the process back to early or mid-seral stages.

silvicultural prescription

A plan for management of an individual timber stand including harvesting, reforestation, and timber stand improvement.

site preparation

Preparing an area of land for reforestation; may include removing unwanted vegetation and debris from a site.

size class

A standard size classification system used for timber management planning inventories in California. Tree size-class is measured as the mean diameter at breast height of dominant trees. Class 2 trees are less than 12 inches in diameter, Class 3 are 12-23.9 inches in diameter, and Class 4 are more than 24 inches in diameter. Tree size is sometimes also referred to under a different classification system: seedling/sapling (less than 5 inches in diameter), pole timber (5 to 8 inches), and sawtimber (greater than 8 inches).

skid trail

Routes along which logs are dragged by a tractor or rubber tired skidder from the stump to a landing point where they are loaded onto a truck.

slash

The residue left on the ground after timber cutting, or after storms, fire, etc. It includes unutilized logs, uprooted stumps, broken stems, branches, twigs, leaves, bark, and chips.

snag

A standing dead tree. For wildlife purposes, one that is at least 15 inches DBH and 20 feet tall.

soil productivity

The natural capacity of a soil to produce a specified plant or sequence of plants under a specified system of management.

spotted owl habitat area (SOHA)

A land management allocation designated in the Eldorado LRMP to protect mature timber stands that provide suitable habitat for late successional wildlife species, particularly the spotted owl. SOHAs vary in size from 1,650 acres to 2,650 acres, depending on management intensity.

stand

A community of trees or other vegetation sufficiently uniform in composition, constitution, age, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities and to thus form a management entity. The basic unit for silvicultural prescriptions.

stand exam
An inventory process used to determine forest tree characteristics, such as species, number, size and growth rates.

stand replacing fire
A fire that burns so intensely it destroys an entire area of the forest, killing most of the trees in the area.

standards and guidelines
In Forest Plans, standards and guidelines are requirements which preclude or impose limitations on resource management activities, generally for the purposes of environmental protection.

stream class
A classification given to all named drainages or stream channels on the Forest, based on stream size, season, amount of flow, importance as a fishery or water source, and other characteristics. They range from Class I (largest, most important) to Class V (always intermittent).

streamside management zone (SMZ)
An administratively designated zone designed to call attention to the need for special management practices aimed at the maintenance and/or improvement of watershed resources. SMZs may include floodplains and wetlands, riparian areas, inner gorges, perennial streams, and intermittent streams showing signs of recurrent annual scour or deposition.

stumpage
The value of timber as it stands uncut in terms of dollar value per thousand board feet.

succession
The gradual supplanting of one plant community by another as a site changes over time, until a climax community is reached.

suppression
Actions taken to exclude, extinguish or confine a fire.

surface fire
A fire that burns on surface layers of vegetation, not reaching the crowns of trees.

sustainability
The ability of an ecosystem or species to respond to change (resiliency) and persist by returning to some equilibrium (stability).

thinning
A cutting made in an immature stand to stimulate the growth of remaining trees and increase the total yield of useful material from the stand. Cut may or may not have commercial value.

threatened species
Any species designated as "threatened" by the Secretary of the Interior. This is a slightly lower designation than "endangered" and is intended to prevent the decline of these species to a point at which the status would change to endangered.

threshold
The point or level of activity beyond which an undesirable set of responses begins to take place within a given resource system.

threshold of concern (TOC)
The upper limit of watershed tolerance to externally applied pressures such as climate and land use. This tolerance is measured in percent of Equivalent Roaded Acres (ERA).

timber production
The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of stands of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use. Does not include production of fuelwood.

timber stand improvement (TSI)

The use of noncommercial thinning, cleaning, brushing, and intermediate cutting to eliminate or suppress less desirable vegetation and improve composition, condition, structure, or growth of a stand.

type conversion

The conversion of one type of vegetation cover to another, such as oak woodland to conifer forest, manzanita brush field to conifer stand, etc.

underburning

Prescribed burning under a canopy of timber. (Normally at moderate to low fire intensity levels, with flame heights and vegetation scorch heights designed to be within acceptable resource management limits.) Also referred to as *understory burning.*

understory

Low-lying vegetation (herbaceous, brush or reproduction) growing under a stand of trees. Also, that portion of trees in a forest stand below the overstory.

utilization

The removal of slash, submerchantable trees, and dead and down material for fire hazard reduction and site preparation.

variety class

A classification system for establishing three visual landscape categories according to the relative importance of the visual features. This classification system is based on the premise that all landscapes have some visual values, but those with the most variety or diversity of visual features have the greatest potential for having or attaining high scenic value.

1. Distinctive (variety class A). Unusual and/or outstanding landscape variety that stands out from the common features in the landscape.

2. Common (variety class B). Prevalent, usual, or widespread landscape variety; also refers to ordinary or undistinguished visual variety.

3. Minimal (variety class C). Little or no visual variety in the landscape; monotonous or below average compared to the common features in the landscape.

vegetation management

The practice of manipulating the species mix, age, fuel load, and distribution of wildland plant communities within a management area. It includes prescribed burning, grazing, chemical applications, biomass harvesting, and any other economically feasible method of enhancing, retarding, or removing the above ground parts of plants.

viable populations

Sufficient numbers of individuals of reproductive age, geographically distributed so that the population can maintain its existence in the planning area over time.

viewshed

The landscape seen or potentially seen from all or a logical part of a travel route, use area, or water body.

visual absorption capability (VAC)

The ability of the landscape to withstand management manipulation without significantly affecting its visual character. Rated as high, moderate, and low.

visual quality objective (VQO)

A set of measurable maximum levels of future alteration of a characteristic landscape. These levels are as follows:

1. Preservation (P). Ecological change only in these areas.

2. Retention (R). Human activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.

3. Partial Retention (PR). Human activity may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

4. Modification (M). Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, follow naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middle ground.

5. Maximum modification (MM). Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

6. Enhancement (E). A short-term management alternative used with the express purpose of increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists.

volume

Quantity of timber based on standing net board feet per acre.

water bar

An erosion control structure used as a cross drain to divert water from road or skid trail surfaces, or an inside ditch to prevent gullying on the road surface.

watershed

The total area above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the flow at that point.

water yield

The runoff from a watershed, including groundwater outflow, over a given period of time. Water yield is precipitation minus evapotranspiration.

wetland

An area inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances, supporting a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and natural ponds.

wildfire

An unplanned fire usually requiring suppression action.