

APPENDIX M: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Table 1: Glossary

Term	Definition
Aggregation	A map-unit attribute to describe the arrangement of vegetation condition found within a map feature or polygon. An aggregation type consists of a homogeneous dominance type or plant association, or compositional group, or vegetation complex arrangements of dominance types or plant associations. Valid codes are H, G, or C where: • H = homogeneous type • G = composition group type • C = vegetation complex type
Aspect	A position facing or commanding a given direction; exposure. Aspect is the compass direction of the prevailing slope with respect to true north.
Azimuth	A horizontal angular measure from true north to an object of interest.
Basal Area	The cross-sectional area of the stem or stems of a plant or of all plants in a stand; generally expressed as square units per unit area. For trees, measured at 4.5 feet above ground; forbs and grasses are measure at the root crown
Bole Length	The straight-line distance measured parallel to the main bole of a tree, from its base to its tip.
Breast Height	A point located on the uphill side of the main stem, by measuring 4.5 feet along the uphill side of the bole from ground level or the predominant root collar. Preclude slight, non-compacted litter accumulations when establishing breast height.
CALVEG	Classification and Assessment with LANDSAT of Visible Ecological Groupings. It is a California-wide system for classifying vegetative and non-vegetative cover types. The primary cover type relates to life form and uses a 3-character alpha code.
Canopy Closure Herbs	Amount of the polygon covered by herbs. Value can range from 0 to 100 percent.
Canopy Closure Non Tree	Amount of the polygon that is covered by vegetation cover other than the tree canopy. Value can range from 0 to 100 percent.

Term	Definition
Canopy Closure Shrubs	Amount of the polygon covered by the foliage of shrubs. Values can range from 0 to 100 percent.
Canopy Cover	The percent of a fixed area covered by the crown of an individual plant species or delimited by the vertical projection of its outermost perimeter; small openings in the crown are included.
Compacted Live Crown Ratio	The percent of the total height of the tree that supports a full, live crown. For trees that have uneven length crowns, occularly transfer lower branches to fill holes in the upper portions of the crown, until a full, even crown is created.
Compartment	A land area, usually between 3,000 and 8,000 acres, easily identified on the ground by physical features. A compartment tis comparable in size to a sub-watershed, or landscape management unit. It is used as a convenience for maintaining stand records and planning vegetation management projects.
Cover Non-Veg	Amount of the polygon that is not covered by vegetation; in general, the component of the polygon that is covered by water, bare soil, rock, or snow fields. Value can range from 0 to 100 percent.
Crown Class	The relative position of the tree or shrub crown with respect to the competing vegetation around it. Crown class for each tree or shrub is judged in the context of its immediate environment, that is those trees or shrubs which are competing for sunlight with the subject tree or shrub.
Crown Length	The vertical distance from the top of the leader to the base of the crown, measured to the lowest live branch-whorl with live branches in at least three quadrants, and continuous with the main crown.
Crown Ratio	The ratio of compacted live crown length to bole length. Lengths are measured parallel to the bole from the base of the tree to the tip.
DEM	Digital Elevation Model. USGS geographic elevation data distributed in raster form. Digital representation of the shape of the earth's surface. Typically, digital elevation data consists of arrays of values that represent topographic elevations measured at equal intervals on the Earth's surface.
Diameter	The length of a straight-line segment passing through the center of an item and terminating at its periphery.

Term	Definition
Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	A measure at breast height (4.5 feet), outside bark, of the tree bole, perpendicular to the tree bole.
Diameter at Root Collar (DRC)	The straight line passing through the center of a cross section of a bole measured at the root collar of a shrub or tree.
Down Log	Stem material (conifer or hardwood) that is lying on the ground. If a stem material is leaning more than 45 degrees from vertical, is not self-supporting, and/or in contact with the ground, it is considered a down log.
Down Woody Material	Woody pieces of trees and shrubs that have been uprooted (no longer supporting growth) or severed from their root system, not self-supporting, and are lying on the ground.
Duff Layer	Duff is the fermentation and humus layer of the forest floor. It does not include the freshly cast material in the litter layer. The top of the duff is where needles, leaves, and other cast-off vegetative material have noticeably begun to decompose. Individual particles usually will be bound by fungi mycelium. When moss is present, the top of the duff is just below the green portion of the moss. The bottom of the duff is the start of the soil ("A" horizon).
Elevation	Vertical distance from a datum, usually mean sea level, to a point or object on the earth's surface. Not to be confused with altitude, this refers to points above the earth's surface.
Fuel Bed	The fuel bed is accumulation of dead, woody residue on the forest floor. It begins at the top of the duff layer and above. It includes litter, dead limb wood, and bole wood from tree species, as well as dead material from shrub, herbaceous, and grass species.
Fuel Model	Mathematical descriptions of fuel properties (e.g., fuel load and fuel depth) that are used as inputs to calculations of fire danger indices and fire behavior potential.
GPS	Global Positioning System. A network of radio-emitting satellites deployed by the U.S. Department of Defense. Ground-based GPS receivers can automatically derive accurate surface coordinates for all kinds of GIS, mapping, and surveying data collection.
Ground Level	The forest floor, made up by soil and duff layer. It does not include unincorporated woody debris that may rise above the ground line. In reference to a point of

Term	Definition
	measure, it is the highest point of the ground touching the base of the object being referenced.
Group Tally	A count of one or more items of the same type or species and recorded as a single line entry.
Growth	A measure of the increase in growth layers for a specified time frame.
Height Growth	The increase in height over a set period of time.
Intersect Diameter	Measurement of diameter at a point where the sampling plane intersects the geometric center of the object being tallied. No adjustment is made for stem irregularities at the point of intersection.
Lean (Tree)	The deflection from vertical, > 15 degrees of a straight line passing through the geometric center of the base and top of the main stem.
Length	The measurement of the extent of something along its greatest dimension.
Life Form	Species and individuals that are grouped into classes on the basis of their similarities in structure and function. A growth form that displays an obvious relationship to important environmental factors.
Limiting Distance	A comparative measurement between the subplot radius and the distance from the subplot center to the center of the object. The comparison is used to determine whether the object is in or out of the fixed area subplot. The object is "IN" if the measured distance is equal to or less than the subplot radius. The object is "OUT" if the measured distance is greater than the subplot radius.
Live Crown Length	The straight-line distance measured parallel to the main bole of a tree, from the top of the live crown to the base of the live crown.
Ownership	The identification of the legal owner/administrator on both the surface and subsurface estates.
Physiognomic Class	Two character class code defined by the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS). There are 10 valid codes such as "TC" for closed tree canopy. The class code falls just below the order in the NVCS hierarchy.
Physiognomic Division	One character division code defined by the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS). The only

Term	Definition
	valid division codes are "N" for non-vegetated division or "V" for vegetative division.
Physiognomic Order	One character order code defined by the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS). Valid codes are T, S, H, N, or X. The order code falls just below the division in the NVCS hierarchy.
Physiognomic Subclass	Two character subclass code defined by the National Vegetation Classification Standard (NVCS). There are 16 valid codes such as "EV" for evergreen vegetation subclass.
Plant Species	The major subdivision of a genus or subgenus of a plant being described or measured.
Plot Configuration	The size and shape of the sampling unit (plot) and the spatial arrangement of subplots within that unit.
Plot	A sub-sample of a plot or stand exam. This is the unit on which data are recorded to individual trees, snags, logs, understory vegetation, and fuels. Data can be collected on either a fixed area or variable radius area.
Proclaimed Forest	Units of the National Forest System as originally proclaimed or designated by Congress.
Quadratic Mean Diameter	The diameter of the tree of average basal area.
Radial Growth Increment	The increase in tree radius over a period of time at breast height, or occasionally at the base/.
Random Sample	Any method of sample selection based on the theory of probability (degree of certainty). At any stage of the operation of selection, the probability of any set of units being selected must be known. It is the only method that can provide a measure of precision of the estimate.
Reconciliation Code	A code used to reflect the status of an individually tallied item with regards to previous surveys.
SAF Cover Type	Society of American Foresters forest cover type code. SAF forest cover type codes are numeric and up to 3 digits in length. Example: 27 = sugar maple.
Slope	A deviation from the horizontal.
Species	A code that represents a fundamental category of taxonomic classification of an organism.

Term	Definition
SRM Cover Type	Society of Range Management rangeland cover type code. SRM range cover codes are numbers up to 3 digits in length. Example: 216 = montane meadows.
Stand	A spatially continuous group of trees and associated vegetation having similar structures and growing under similar soil and climatic conditions.
Stand Exam Grid	Basic data collection method for stand exams. It consists of a set of plots, separated by equal distances on a grid pattern. The lines of the grid (transects) are oriented in cardinal directions. There is a predetermined distance between plots. The number of transects and grid plots will vary depending upon the size and shape of the stand.
Stratified Sample	A method of sampling forest resources where stands or polygons of similar properties are lumped into strata. This improves the efficiency of an inventory by reducing the variability within a given population. The less variability there is within a strata, the fewer samples will need to be taken to achieve a statistically valid result.
Stratum	A group of stands within a condition class; similar characteristics such as forest type, tree size class, and canopy density.
Stump	The woody base of a tree remaining in contact with the soil after the trunk or main stem has been severed at a point less than 4.5 feet above ground height (measured on the uphill side).
Tree	A woody perennial plant, typically large, with a single well-defined stem carrying a more or less definite crown.
Tree Age	Total age of the above-ground stem of a tree (not age of the root stock or the total age from seed). Total age is usually the annual ring count to the pith of the tree at breast height plus an estimate of the number of years it took the tree to reach breast height.
USGS Landuse2	United States Geological Survey land use land cover code. A 2-digit numeric code such as "11" for residential, "41" for deciduous forest land, or "72" for beaches.