

# Appendix I - Glossary

**Abundance.** The total number of individuals of a species in an area or community.

**Adaptive management.** A process that integrates project design, management, and monitoring to provide a framework for adaptation and learning.

**Basal area.** Basal area is the cross section at the root crown of the tree, expressed as square feet per acre or square meters per hectare. One measure of stand biomass.

**Baseline data.** Data collected at the beginning of a project on the existing situation. These data provide a benchmark against which change that occurs during the project period can be assessed.

**Canopy.** The overstory comprised of the dominant and co-dominant trees.

**Canopy cover.** The percentage of a fixed area covered by tree crowns, measured as the vertical cover of the ground than the canopy covers.

**Cause and effect.** The extent to which one factor influences another.

**Closed-ended questions.** Questions that provide answer choices

**Comparison group.** A group that is used for comparison to another group that has received some intervention. Also see control group.

**Composition.** A list of all the species that grow in an area.

**Constraints.** Problems that limit a project and may keep it from succeeding, such as lack of time, lack of money, lack of trained personnel, and lack of social or political opportunities.

**Cover.** The amount of the ground that is shaded by living plants, usually expressed as a percentage; also, the cover of the ground by dead plants and plant parts, usually called litter cover, also usually expressed as a percentage.

**Data.** A set of observations collected through monitoring. Information is derived from data through analysis.

**DBH.** Diameter at breast height.

**Diameter at breast height.** The diameter of a tree at breast height (approximately 4.5 feet above the ground on the uphill side of the tree).

**Direct Observation.** A social science data collection method in which a team or individual systematically observes individuals, groups, animals, plants, objects, events, processes, or relationships and then records the observations.

**Downed log.** A fallen tree, log, or part of a log.

**Economic vitality.** The diversity of economic opportunities available in a community signifies its vitality.

**Economic resiliency.** A community's ability to respond and adapt to change in the most positive, constructive ways possible for mitigating the impacts of change on the community.

**Ecosystem.** An interacting system of living plants and animals and the nonliving parts of their environment.

**Erosion.** The movement of particles of soil across the surface of the ground or into watercourses; usually caused by water, but also by wind, gravity, and other factors.

**Exotic plants.** Plants that are non-native to a particular ecosystem or community, that often thrive on disturbed conditions and can become abundant after thinning or burning. Exotic plants can displace and reduce populations of native species.

**Facilitator.** A person who helps members of a group conduct meetings in an efficient and effective way but who does not dictate what will happen.

**Factors.** Specific events, situations, conditions, policies, attitudes, beliefs, or behaviors that may affect the desired future condition.

**Focus group discussion.** A data collection method that involves bringing together a group of people to talk about a specific topic. It takes advantage of group dynamics and allows respondents to be guided by a facilitator into increasing levels of depth on key issues included in the monitoring plan. Focus groups are ideally fairly homogeneous groups of between six and eight people.

**Forb.** A broad-leafed green plant whose stems are not woody, but not including grasses, sedges or rushes.

**Fuel ladder.** Combustible material that can carry fire from the forest floor into the crown of a tree, such as lower limbs, or small trees. Fuel may include downed woody debris, dry understory vegetation, litter, etc.

**Goal.** A general summary of the desired state that a project is working to achieve. A good goal meets the criteria of being visionary, relatively general, brief, and measurable. A goal is typically less specific than an objective.

**Ground cover.** The cover that grasses, forbs and other plants cast on the forest floor. Ground cover also includes other materials on the ground, such as dead needles and other litter and rocks. This measure is usually expressed as a percentage.

**Homogeneous.** Characteristics of a group in which all members are similar.

**Indicator.** A unit of information measured over time that documents changes in a specific condition. A good indicator meets the criteria of being measurable, precise, consistent, and sensitive.

**Information.** Knowledge that is extracted from data through the process of analysis.

**Information need.** What a specific audience wants to know about the project.

**Key informant interview.** A data collection method that involves semi-structured, in-depth consultations with knowledgeable individuals in which only some of the questions are predetermined. Instead of using a formal survey questionnaire, an informal guide is generally used. Also called “informal interview.”

**Litter.** The top layer of soil comprised of a variety of organic material such as dead needles, twigs, branches and dead grasses and forbs.

**Mast.** Fruits, seeds, or nuts typically from woody plants that are highly valued food for one or more wildlife species.

**Measure.** Item used to determine change in project indicators.

**Monitoring.** The periodic collection and evaluation of data relative to stated project goals, objectives, and activities. *Implementation monitoring* is important for multiparty monitoring groups because it simply asks, ‘did we do what we said we would do?’ *Effectiveness monitoring* helps determine whether or not the project goals were attained by asking the question ‘did it work?’ Reducing the small trees that compete with old-growth ponderosa pine, and increasing forage for deer are examples of project goals that can be measured through effectiveness monitoring. *Validation monitoring* involves checking the assumptions upon which our restoration efforts are based. ‘Did reducing crown cover actually reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire?’ is a validation monitoring question.

**Monitoring plan.** An outline for the steps you will undertake to ensure that the project is on track. It lists a project’s audience, their information needs, the strategies that will be used for data collection, the indicators, the methods that will be used to collect data, and when, by whom, and where data will be collected.

**Monitoring strategy.** The broad plan for getting data needed to meet each information need. It generally describes the specific comparison that you will be making with your monitoring efforts.

**Objective.** A specific statement detailing the desired accomplishments or outcomes of a project. If the project is well conceptualized and well designed, realization of a project’s objectives should lead to the fulfillment of the project’s goal. A good objective meets the criteria of being impact oriented, measurable, time limited, specific, and practical. Objectives are more specific than goals.

**Participation.** Active involvement in the design, management, and monitoring of a project.

**Pedestal.** The elevation of pebbles, plants and rocks on a ‘stem’ or pedestal of soil, and caused by the erosion of the soil surface around it.

**Point-center-quarter method.** A sampling approach based on the use of a transect. At regular points at intervals along a transect, an imaginary line across crosses the transect, forming four quarters. One tree in each quarter is sampled.

**Probing.** Follow-up questions on a specific point by asking as many questions as necessary to get a good understanding of the issue.

**Qualitative.** Descriptive characterization; for example, characterizing understory plant cover as robust and dense is qualitative information. In social science, qualitative data normally describes people’s knowledge, attitudes, or behaviors.

**Qualitative methods.** Techniques for collecting data that are not easily summarized in numerical form, such as minutes from community members, general notes from observations, and information from informal interviews.

**Quantitative.** Numerical characterization; for example, a density of 20 trees per acre is quantitative data.

**Quantitative methods.** Techniques for collecting data that are easily represented as numbers, such as answers to formal surveys, counting tree species, acres treated, or financial records. Quantitative data generally describe formal measurements of variables such as income, tree production, or animal population densities.

**Resources.** Items that a project needs, such as staff time, managerial time, local knowledge, money, equipment, the presence of trained people, and social and political opportunities.

**Riparian plant species.** Plant species that are found growing along the edges of streams, rivers and other watercourses, often including dry streambeds.

**Sampling.** Measuring a subset of individuals, households, trees or other factors in a population like a community, forest, watershed, or transect.

**Sampling population.** The collection of all sampling units that you could potentially observe. All units in a population must share at least one characteristic – for example, households in a community or trees of a certain species.

**Snag.** A dead standing tree.

**Stakeholder.** Person who has vested interest in the natural resources or who potentially will be affected by project activities.

**Strategic planning.** A process for defining the general purpose of your group and then deciding what types of activities you will carry out to achieve your group's goals.

**Survey.** A data collection method that uses a standardized approach to collect data on individuals (including people, plants, and animals) and groups (households or organizations) through structured measurement or the questioning of systematically identified samples.

**Target condition.** The situation you intend to influence through your project activities. It is akin to the outcome – it is the condition you are trying to explain, predict, or modify.

**Time series analysis.** Plotting data trends over time for one or more geographic areas or other units (e.g., industries) of analysis.

**Trend.** Direction of change.

**Triangulation.** Confirmation of a result by measuring the same thing different ways.

**Unit.** A single item or individual. For example, a community, a household, a person, a garden plot, or a tree.

**Validation.** The process of crosschecking to ensure that the data obtained from one monitoring method are confirmed by the data obtained from a different method.

**Variable.** A particular characteristic of a unit that an observer is interested in measuring.