

7.0 GLOSSARY

Accelerated Erosion. Any increase in the natural rate of erosion process such as landslides, stream channel scour, or dry ravel. Accelerated erosion can be caused by management activities that (1) alter the natural erosion resisting forces (root strength, inter-particle binding), (2) alter the flow of ground or surface waters, or (3) change the natural slope locations of soil or rock materials.

Affected Environment. The natural, physical, and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes due to proposed actions.

Air Quality. Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act, P.L. 88-206, Jan. 1978.

Airshed. A geographical area that, because of topography, meteorology and climate, shares the same air.

Alpine. Related to high elevation slopes above timberline.

Alpine Skiing. Skiing where boot heel is secured tightly to the skis, on developed slopes most often using chairlifts to reach upper elevations – downhill skiing.

Alternative. One of several policies, plans or projects proposed for decision-making.

Analysis Area. A delineated area of land subject to analysis of (1) responses to proposed management practices in the production, enhancement, or maintenance of forest and range land outputs and environmental quality objectives, and (2) economic and social impacts (FSM 1905). Identified as tracts of lands with relatively homogeneous characteristics in terms of the outputs and effects by management.

Anthropogenic. Action created by man.

Aquatic Ecosystem. The stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities and the habitat features that occur within them.

Background (Scenic Distance Zone). The visible terrain beyond the foreground and middleground where individual trees are not visible but blend into the total fabric of the forest stand.

Base Area. Related to the defined geographic area of a developed ski area where parking, lodge facilities, skier services, and/or retail or commercial services are usually provided.

Best Management Practices (BMP). Practices determined by the resource professional to be the most effective and practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources; used to meet water quality goals.

Big-game. Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport-hunting resource and include such animals as deer, elk and bear.

Biodiversity or Diversity. The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area.

Catchline (relative to this EIS). Road and/or trail at the lower end of Hogback Basin to “catch” skiers and prevent them from dropping into the steep Knuppenburg Lake area slopes.

Cavity Habitat. Snags, broken-topped live trees and down logs used by wildlife species that excavate and/or occupy cavities in these trees.

Clearcut Harvest. A regeneration method under an even-aged silvicultural system. When suitable seed trees are either non-existent or unprotectable, all trees within a defined area are removed at one time. Regeneration then occurs from (1) natural seeding from adjacent stands, (2) seed contained in the slash or logging debris, (3) advance growth, or (4) planting or direct seeding. An even-aged forest usually results.

Climax Vegetation. The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site. The species composition of the vegetation has reached a highly stable condition over time and perpetuates itself unless disturbed by outside forces.

Comfortable Capacity. Relative to this EIS, the number of skiers who can comfortably use the skiing areas at White Pass. This is a management term defined by the White Pass Company and relates to the skier capacity of the slopes and the Company’s objective for maintaining “quality” skiing. It is essentially measured by when it is exceeded, i.e., when skiing quality declines because of factors such as the number of runs a skier can make in a day, time waiting in lift lines and in lines for food service or restrooms, and, more subjectively, how crowded the area feels.

Compaction (relative to this EIS). Refers to soil becoming consolidated by the effects of surface pressure often from heavy machinery or vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Composting Toilet. Unplumbed vault toilet where additives and air are circulated to increase the natural breakdown of organic waste.

Council on Environmental Quality. An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies and advises the president on environmental matters.

Cross country skiing. See Nordic skiing.

Cultural Resources. The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric or social values.

Culvert. A metal or concrete pipe or a constructed box-type conduit through which water is carried under roads.

Cumulative Effect. The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can also result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Detachable Grip Lift. A ropeway system on which carriers circulate around the system alternately attaching to and detaching from a moving haul rope.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Required by environmental laws to assess effects of certain actions. It is an initial report on reasons for, and effect of these actions (projects, procedures, etc.) It usually includes alternative actions including a no-action and a proposed action alternatives along with additional alternatives showing varying degrees of action.

Developed Recreation Site. Distinctly designated areas where facilities are provided for concentrated public use, e.g., campgrounds, picnic areas, boating sites, and ski areas.

Dispersed recreation. Outdoor recreation that takes place outside developed recreations sites or in wilderness areas.

Downhill skiing. See Alpine skiing.

Ecosystem. The complete biological and abiotic system formed by the interaction of a group of organisms and their environment.

Edge. Where different plant communities meet, or where variations in successional stage or vegetation conditions within the plant community come together.

Effects (or Impacts). Environmental consequences as a result of a proposed action. Effects provide the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives. Effects may be either direct (caused by the action and occur at the same time and place) or indirect (occurring later in time or at a different location, but are reasonably foreseeable or cumulative results of the action).

Effects and impacts as used in this EIS are synonymous. Effects include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic quality, historic, cultural, economic, social, or healthy effects, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Effects may also include those resulting from actions that may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on the balance it appears that the effects will be beneficial.

Egress trail. A path/traverse that allows skiers access to lifts, runs and facilities on other parts of the mountain.

Emissions. Substances discharged into the air, such as from stoves, fireplaces and automobiles.

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

Endemic. The population of plants, animals, insects, or diseases at their normal levels. Often relating to endemic populations of potentially injurious forest insects, in contrast to epidemic levels not in balance with predator populations.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A statement of the environmental effects of a proposed action and alternatives to it. It is required for major federal actions under Section 102 of NEPA and is released to the public and other agencies for comment and review. It is a formal document that must follow the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the project proposal.

Ephemeral Streams. Streams that flow only as a direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events. They have no perennial baseflow.

Epidemic. An abnormally high population of potentially injurious plants, animals, or diseases. A population that exceeds its normal balanced level, in contrast to endemic levels.

Equivalent Open Acres (EOA). A term used to equate the amount of forest canopy to be removed by a proposed harvest activity to the amount of canopy removed by a clearcut. For purposes of this analysis, one acre of vegetation removal equals one EOA.

Erosion. Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily resulting from the activities of people, animals, or natural catastrophes.

Essential Habitat. Areas with essentially the same characteristics as critical habitat but not declared as such. These habitats are provided to meet recovery objectives for endangered, threatened, and proposed wildlife species.

Eutrophication. Natural process in shallow lakes where plant growth in the lake increases and the ability to decompose organic material decreases. This action leads to the gradual filling in of the lake.

Existing Visual Condition. The current condition of the landscape from the visual management standpoint; description of the degree of visual alteration that has occurred at a place.

Fawn rearing habitat. Areas used regularly by female deer for fawn raising. Optimum fawning habitat includes low shrubs or small trees under an overstory of about 50 percent closure, usually located on slopes of less than 15 percent where vegetation is succulent and plentiful in June and where water is available within 600 feet.

Fixed Grip Lift. Ropeway system on which carriers remain attached to a haul rope. The ropeway system may be either continuous or intermittently circulating.

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

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 total combined canopy closure of trees and tall shrubs (greater than seven feet in height).

Forb. Any herb other than grass.

Ford. A shallow place in a body of water, such as a river, where one can cross by walking or riding on an animal or in a vehicle.

Foreground (Scenic Distance Zone). That part of a scene, landscape, etc., which is nearest to the viewer, and in which detail is evident, usually one quarter to one half mile from the observer.

Fuels. Combustible wildland vegetative materials present in the forest which potentially contribute to a significant fire hazard.

Fuels Management. Manipulation or reduction of fuels to meet Forest protection and management objectives while preserving and enhancing environmental quality.

Geology. By definition, geology is the science and study of the solid matter of the earth, its composition, structure, physical properties, history and the processes that shape it. The term “geology” is used in this FEIS to describe the rock types occurring in the White Pass Study Area.

Habitat Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a specific area.

Habitat Type (Vegetative). An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax.

Hardwoods. A conventional term for broadleaf trees and their wood products.

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

High Risk. Individual or groups of trees that are live (green) but have physical characteristics favorable to epidemic insect infestation. Trees in this category are subject to mortality and loss of economic value.

Hydrologic. Pertains to the quantity, quality and timing of water yield from forested lands.

Immediate Foreground (Scenic Distance Zone). That part of the foreground which is extremely critical for visual detail, usually within 400 feet of the observer.

Impacts. See Effects.

Indicator Species. Species of fish, wildlife, or plants adapted to a particular kind of environment, which reflect ecological changes to the environment caused by land management activities.

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

Inland Native Fish Strategy. An Environmental Assessment that provides interim direction to protect habitat and populations of resident native fish outside of anadromous fish habitat. This Environmental Assessment specifies riparian management objectives, standards, guidelines, and monitoring requirements.

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

Intermittent Stream. A stream which flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow.

Irretrievable. Refers 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. Refers 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 operations.

Issue. A point, matter, or question of public discussion or interest, to be addressed or resolved through the planning process.

Issue Indicator. A specific, measurable element which expresses some feature or attribute relative to an issue.

Krumholz. Area of trees at the upper edge of timberline where environmental conditions are so severe that the trees are not upright, but grow as distorted shrubs or mats.

Land Allocation. The assignment of a management emphasis to particular land areas for the purpose of achieving planned goals and objectives. Land allocation decisions are documented in environmental analysis documents such as the Wenatchee National Forests FEIS 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. Physical or biological condition that constrains a population size of a species in a defined geographic area, e.g., winter range for elk.

Lift. All passenger ropeways; including: aerial tramways, aerial lifts, surface lifts, tows, and conveyors.

Master Plan. A concept and/or program for long-term development of a defined geographic area. The White Pass Ski Area Master Plan is a long-term development planning document for the White Pass area.

Management Area (MA). Geographic areas, not necessarily contiguous, which 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 using the same habitat. A species whose condition can be used to assess the impacts of management actions on a particular area.

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

Mass Wasting. Mass wasting, also known as mass movement or slope movement, is the geomorphic process by which soil, regolith, and rock move downslope under the force of gravity. Types of mass wasting include creep,

slides, flows, topples, and falls, each with their own characteristic features, and take place over timescales from seconds to years. When the gravitational force acting on a slope exceeds its resisting force, slope failure (mass wasting) occurs.

Middle ground (Scenic Distance Zone). That part of a scene or landscape which is between the foreground and background zones. Generally describes the portions of a view extending from the foreground zone out to about three to five miles from the observer.

Mitigation. Mitigation includes (1) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This law requires the preparation of environmental impact statements for every major Federal Action which causes a significant effect on the quality of the human environment.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process. An interdisciplinary process, which concentrates decision making 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. Renewal of a tree crop by natural means using natural seed fall and/or tree regeneration existing before stand harvest.

No-Action Alternative. The No-Action Alternative is required by regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1502.14). The No-Action Alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives. When a proposed activity is being evaluated, the No-Action Alternative discusses conditions under which current management direction would continue unchanged.

Non-point Pollution. Pollution whose source is an area, a collection of sites or some other type of “group” source. Erosion and sedimentation are examples. Exhaust from many autos, as in a parking lot, is generally considered non-point pollution. It is compared with point pollution.

Nordic Skiing. Skiing when the boot heel is not fastened to the skis. Generally done in undeveloped areas, but may also be on trails and in tracks groomed especially for the sport.

Noxious Weeds. Rapidly spreading plants that can cause a variety of major ecological or economic impacts to both agriculture and wildland.

Old-growth. Old-growth is a distinct successional stage in the development of a timber stand that has special significance for wildlife.

Open Road Density. The linear measure of road system open to use relative to total habitat available (miles/square mile). A wildlife habitat standard set in the Forest Plan, and applied to most Management Areas important to big-game and PETS species including gray wolves, grizzly bears and wolverines.

Outputs. The goods and services produced from and offered on National Forest lands.

Overstory. The portion of tree canopy in a forest that forms the uppermost layer of foliage.

PACFISH. An inter-agency ecosystem management approach for maintaining and restoring healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and aquatic habitats within the range of Pacific anadromous fish on Federal lands managed by USDI-Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service.

PAOT. Person at one time, a capacity measurement indicating the number of people that can use an area at one time. In this EIS it includes both skiers and non-skiers.

Peak Flow. The greatest flow of water in a stream or river, generally attained during melt of the winter snowpack.

Perennial Streams. Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

Point Pollution. Pollution which originates at a single identifiable source, such as a sewage treatment plant or fireplace. It is compared with non-point pollution.

Preferred Alternative. The alternative recommended for implementation based on analysis developed in the EIS (40 CFR 1502.14).

Prescribed Burning. The intentional application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or altered state. Burning is conducted under such conditions as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and to produce an intensity of heat and rate of spread required to meet planned objectives (e.g., silviculture, wildlife management, reduction of fuel hazard, etc.).

Prescribed Fire. A preplanned wildland fire burning under specified conditions to accomplish specific planned objectives. It could result from either a planned or unplanned ignition.

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

Rain-on-Snow Event. A winter storm that is characterized by precipitation falling as rain, rather than snow, and melting of existing snowpack.

Range of Alternatives. A range of alternatives provides a set of different ways for managing public lands, offering many different levels of goods and services. Each 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.

Raptors. Predatory birds, such as falcons, hawks, eagles, or owls.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). A classification system of combinations of recreational activities, settings, and experience opportunities, arranged along a continuum from Primitive to Urban. Classes used are:

Primitive (PRIM). Area is characterized by essentially a natural appearing environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other area users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM) - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is not permitted.

Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) - Area is characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other area users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Motorized use is permitted.

Roaded Natural - Area is characterized by predominately natural-appearing environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Such evidence usually harmonizes with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be low to moderate, but with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is provided for in the construction standards and design of facilities.

Roaded Modified - An area that has been altered by management activities such that it is characterized by predominately an altered environment, allowing for noticeable to strongly-evident management activities. Recreation opportunities are provided in a substantially altered environment except for campsites.

Rural (R) - Area is characterized by substantially altered natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are primarily to enhance specific recreation activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of people are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.

Urban (U) - Area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans are predominant. Facilities for motorized transport occupy a substantial portion of the area. Probability of encountering individuals and groups is high, as is the convenience of developed sites. Opportunities for competitive and spectator sports and for passive use of developed parks and open spaces is common.

Reforestation. The natural or artificial restocking of a forest area with trees--includes measures to obtain natural regeneration, as well as tree planting and seeding. Reforestation is used to produce timber and other forest products, protect watershed functioning, prevent erosion, and improve other social and economic values of the forest, such as wildlife, recreation, and natural beauty.

Regeneration. The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. This term may also refer to the crop itself (seedlings, saplings).

Rehabilitation. To return unproductive lands, other than roads and trails, to good health through stabilization so as to produce the same vegetation (or similar species) as found in adjacent areas.

Residual Stand. Trees remaining in forested stand after some event, such as selection cutting.

Restricted Road. A National Forest road or segment which is restricted from certain types of use or all uses during some or all seasons of the year. 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 Areas/Habitats. Areas of land that are directly affected by water, usually having visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflecting the influence of water. Streamsides, lake edges, or marshes are typical riparian areas.

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

Roadless Area. A National Forest-system area which is larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller than 5,000 acres, is contiguous to a designated Wilderness or primitive area. The area contains no roads and has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion in the wilderness preservation system.

Scenic Quality Objective (SQO). Categories of acceptable landscape alteration measured in degrees of deviation from the natural-appearing landscape.

Preservation - Ecological changes only.

Retention - Management activities should not be evident to the casual Forest visitor.

Partial Retention - Management activities remain visually subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification - Management activities 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.

Maximum Modification - Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape, but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Enhancement - A short-term management alternative which is done with the express purpose of increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists.

Scenic Resource. The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for visitors.

Scenic Variety Class. Classification of National Forest landscapes into different degrees of variety identified as Distinctive (A), Common (B), and Minimal (C).

Scoping. The procedure by which the Forest Service determines the range of issues and extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action. This includes but is not limited to: the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed; the identification of significant issues related to a proposed action; and establishing the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed.

Sediment. Any material carried in suspension by water, which will ultimately settle to the bottom. Sediment has two main sources: from the water channel itself and from disturbed upland sites.

Seed Tree. A tree selected as a natural seed source within a shelterwood or seedtree harvest cut. Sometimes also reserved for seed collection.

Seedlings and Saplings. Non-commercial-size young trees, generally occurring in plantations.

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 (a) population numbers or density, or (b) habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Seral Stage. A transitory or developmental stage of a biotic community in an ecological succession (does not include climax successional stage or pioneer stage).

Skier. A skier is any person utilizing a device that attaches to at least one foot or the lower torso for the purpose of sliding on a slope. The device slides on the snow or other surface of a slope and is capable of being maneuvered and controlled by the person using the device (refer to ANSI B77.1).

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

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

Snowbridge. The placement and compaction of snow into a stream channel to provide a skiable surface over the streamcourse without the placement of any physical structure, such as a culvert or bridge. In the event of a perennial stream, the snow immediately within the stream channel is melted out to provide an opening for winter streamflow. Intermittent and ephemeral streams melt through the snowbridge in a similar manner once flows commence in the spring.

Snow Intercept Thermal Cover. Vegetation that reduces energy expenses due to movement and temperature regulation by deer and provides forage during deep snow (18 inches or greater).

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, physiognomy, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from adjacent communities.

Stream Order. Streams are systematically classified based on the network of tributary branches within a drainage basin. Each non-branching channel segment (smallest size) is designated a first-order stream. A stream which receives water from 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.

Streambed Particle Size Distribution. A graphical representation of the size class composition of a cross section of streambed. The composition is statistically determined by sampling the composition of particle sizes in the streambed, not the area covered by individual particles.

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

Suitable Forest Land. Forest land (as defined in CFR 219.3, 219.14) for which technology can ensure timber production without irreversible resource damage to soils, productivity, or watershed conditions; for which there is reasonable assurance that such lands can be adequately restocked (as provided in CFR 219.4); and for which there is management direction that indicates that timber production is an appropriate use of that area.

Thermal Cover. Vegetative cover used by animals to modify the adverse effects of weather. A forest or shrub stand at least 5 feet in height with tree canopy cover of at least 70 percent provides thermal cover for mule deer. For elk thermal cover is defined as 30 to 60 acres in size, 40 feet tall or greater coniferous stands with crown closure exceeding 70 percent. Deciduous and conifer stands may serve as thermal cover in summer, but deciduous stands are not effective in winter.

Threatened Species. Any species of plant or animal which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and which has been designated in the Federal Register as such. In addition, some states have declared certain species in their jurisdiction as threatened or endangered.

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

Unroaded. Area characterized by its lack of existing roads, but not necessarily designated as a Roadless Area or Wilderness. See Roadless Area, Wilderness.

Unsuitable Forest Land. Lands not selected for timber production in Step II and III of the suitability analysis during development of the Forest Plan due to: (1) the multiple-use objectives for the alternative preclude timber production; (2) other management objectives for the alternative limit timber production activities to the point where management requirements set forth in 36 CFR 219.27 cannot be met; and (3) the harvests are not cost-efficient over the planning horizon in meeting forest objectives that include timber production. Land not appropriate for timber production shall be designated as unsuitable in the Forest Plan.

Viewshed. Portion of the Forest that is seen from a major travel route, or high use location.

Water Yield. The measured output of the Forest's streams.

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

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.

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

Wildlife Diversity. The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats or habitat features per unit area.