



Glossary of Planning Terms

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Forest Plan Revision

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbmu/forest-plan/index.shtml>

- Revised, per
 - Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1900, Amend. #1900-2007-1, Sep. 4, 2007
http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsm/1900/1900_zero_code.rtf
 - 36 CFR Part 219 (Planning: Final Rule, 21467-21512), Apr 21, 2008
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-8085.pdf>

The glossary provides definitions of terms and concepts relevant to Forest Plan Revision.

The source for these definitions is *FSM 1900 – Planning - Zero Code*, unless otherwise indicated.

Activity A measure, course of action, or treatment that is undertaken to directly or indirectly produce, enhance, or maintain a desired resource management condition or objective.

Adaptive Management A system of management practices based on clearly identified outcomes and monitoring to determine if management actions are meeting desired outcomes, and if not, to facilitate management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or reevaluated. Adaptive management stems from the recognition that knowledge about natural resource systems is sometimes uncertain. (36 CFR 219.6)

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

Alternative Dispute Resolution Any procedure other than litigation used to resolve issues in controversy, including but not limited to, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, fact finding, mini-trials, arbitration, use of ombudspersons, or any combination thereof (Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1996 (5 U.S.C. 571)).

Area of Analysis The geographic area within which ecosystems, their components, or their processes are evaluated during analysis and development of one or more plans, plan revisions, or plan amendments. For a plan, an area of analysis may be larger than a plan area. For development of a plan amendment, an area of analysis may be smaller than the plan area. An area of analysis may include multiple ownerships. (36 CFR 219.16)

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Assessment An analysis and interpretation of the social, economic, or ecological characteristics of an area using scientific principles to describe existing conditions as they affect sustainability.

Benefit (Outcome or Result) Inclusive terms used to quantify the results of an activity, project, or program.

Capability The ability of a unit of land, based on defined physical and biological attributes, to support a particular use or suite of products while maintaining ecosystem sustainability.

Characteristics of Ecosystem Diversity Parameters that describe an ecosystem in terms of the composition (such as major vegetation types, rare communities, aquatic systems, and riparian systems); structure, including successional stages, water quality, wetlands, and floodplains; principal ecological processes, including stream flows and historic and current disturbance regimes; and soil, water, and air resources.

Collaboration (*Not defined in Planning Directives - derived from FSH 2409.19, Ch.60*). A component of public participation by a diverse cross-section of relevant stakeholders that involves the sharing of ideas and power in an open, inclusive, and transparent process: The decision making remains with the agency; however the line officer and staff engage their partners at key stages of a project. Partners include a diverse group of individuals representing local community interests, interested groups or individuals, and public agencies. Also see related term PublicParticipation.

Conservation Measures taken to achieve preservation, maintenance, or restoration goals without impairing the sustainable flow of uses, values, benefits, products, services, and visitor opportunities for current and future generations.

Cultural/Heritage Resources Such resources as archeological, historical, or architectural sites, structures, places, objects, ideas, and traditions that are identified by field inventory, historical documentation, or evidence and that are important to specified social or heritage groups or scientific and management endeavors.

Desired Conditions The social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area is to be directed. Desired conditions are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities, and may be achievable only over a long time period. (36 CFR 219.7)

Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities The distribution and relative abundance or extent of plant and animal communities and their component species, including tree species, occurring in an area. (36 CFR 219.16)

Ecological Conditions Components of the biological and physical environment that can affect diversity of plant and animal communities and the productive capacity of ecological systems. These components could include the abundance and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, roads and other structural developments, human uses, and invasive, exotic species. (36 CFR 219.16).

Ecosystem Diversity The variety and relative extent of ecosystem types, including their composition, structure, and processes within all or a part of an area of analysis. (36 CFR 219.16)

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Environmental Management System (EMS) The part of the overall management system that includes organizational structure, planning activities, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes, and resources for developing, implementing, achieving, reviewing, and maintaining environmental policy. (36 CFR 219.6)

Evaluation An appraisal and study of social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends relevant to a unit. The analysis of monitoring data that produces information needed to answer specific monitoring questions. Evaluation may include comparing monitoring results with a predetermined guideline or expected norm that may lead to recommendations for changes in management, a land management plan, or monitoring plan. Evaluations provide an updated compilation of information for use in environmental analysis of future project and activity decisions.

Guidelines Information and guidance for project and activity decision-making to help achieve desired conditions and objectives in the plan area.

Independent Peer Review A review conducted using accepted practices that does not allow individuals to participate in the peer reviews of documents they authored or co-authored. A peer is a person who has substantially equal knowledge and standing in relation to the authors.

Indicator A measure or measurement of an aspect of a sustainability criterion. A quantitative or qualitative variable that can be measured or described and, when observed periodically, shows trends. Indicators are quantifiable performance measures of outcomes or objectives for attaining criteria designed to assess progress toward desired conditions.

Inventoried Roadless Area Areas identified in a set of inventoried roadless area maps, contained in the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation, Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2, dated November 2000, and any subsequent update or revision of those maps through the land management planning process. (36 CFR 294.11)

ISO 14001 A consensus standard developed by the International Organization for Standardization and adopted by the American National Standards Institute that describes environmental management systems and outlines the elements of an environmental management system (36 CFR 219.16).

Issue Issues may be considered as: (a) a potential factor for determining need for change for a plan; (b) specific resource concerns related to a proposed action under NEPA (FSM 1950); (c) points of contention or disagreement, or (d) a subject or question of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System.

Management Area A specifically identified area within the plan area to which specific plan components (desired conditions, objectives, identification of suitable and unsuitable land uses, or special designations) are applied.

Mission A major, continuing national area of concern or responsibility of the Forest Service directed by legislation, order, or regulation. The Forest Service mission represents the basic reason for its existence as a Federal agency and characterizes the agency's role in sustainably managing the Nation's forests and grasslands.

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Monitoring A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate changes in actions, conditions, and relationships over time and space or progress toward meeting desired conditions or plan objectives.

National Direction Statements of missions, goals, policy, and objectives that guide Forest Service planning.

National Forest System. All National Forest lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States; all National Forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means. (16 U.S.C. 1608)

Native Species Species indigenous to an area of analysis.

Need for Change A finding by the Responsible Official that there is a need to modify plan components through a review of new issues and information, monitoring and evaluation results, and changes in law or regulation.

Niche The role of the Forests, Grasslands, Prairies, or other comparable units in contributing to social, economic, and ecological sustainability.

Non-Substantive Changes Modifications to the plan that do not appreciably change plan components (desired conditions, objectives, guidelines, and so on).

Objectives Concise projections of measurable, time-specific intended outcomes. The objectives for a plan are the means of measuring progress toward achieving or maintaining desired conditions. Like desired conditions, objectives are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities (36 CFR 219.7). In the Strategic Plan, objectives are a more focused statement of aim or purpose for a strategic goal.

Objector A person(s) or organization(s) who has submitted a timely objection to the appropriate reviewing officer.

Peer Review See *Independent Peer Review*

Plan A document or set of documents that integrates and displays information relevant to management of a unit of the National Forest System (36 CFR 219.16). (*Not in Directives*: The term "Plan" refers to a unit's Land and Resource Management Plan, also known as a Forest Plan).

Plan Area The National Forest System lands covered by a plan. (36 CFR 219.16)

Plan Components Broad guidance in a plan that identifies desired conditions, objectives, guidelines, suitability of areas, and special areas.

Plan Document Information that documents the process of developing, amending, or revising a plan, including evaluation reports; documentation of the public involvement; the plan, including applicable maps; applicable approval documents; applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, if any; the monitoring program for the plan area; descriptions of the environmental management system established for the unit, and other information. This information also includes records that support analytical conclusions made and options considered by the interdisciplinary team throughout the planning process.

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Plan Model An ideal pattern that organizes the five plan components (see *Plan Components*) into three parts: the vision, strategy, and the design criteria. The vision includes roles, contributions, and desired conditions. The strategy includes objectives, identification of suitable and unsuitable land uses, and special area designations. The design criteria include guidelines and other statutory requirements.

Productivity The capacity of National Forest System lands and their ecological systems to provide the various renewable resources in certain amounts in perpetuity. For the purposes of this subpart it is an ecological, not an economic, term (36 CFR 219.16).

Program Budget A plan that allocates annual funds, workforce ceilings, and targets among agency management units.

Program Budget Level A single, comprehensive integrated program responsive to the Chief's direction that specifies a level of production attainable from a given investment of dollars and other resources. Each budget level represents a complete, full, and independent package within the criteria and constraints identified.

Program Proposals A multi-year course of action proposed under a given set of assumptions and constraints.

Project. An organized effort to achieve an objective identified by location, activities, outputs, effects, times, and responsibilities for execution.

Project Design The process of developing specific information necessary to describe the location, timing, activities, outputs, effects, accountability, and control of a project.

Public Involvement A Forest Service process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency approvals and decisions are made by: (a) informing the public about Forest Service activities, plans, and decisions, and (b) encouraging public understanding about and participation in the planning processes which lead to final decision-making.

Public Lands Any land, and interest in land, administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976). This includes the mineral estates underlying National Forest System lands.

Public Participation Activities that include a wide range of public involvement tools and processes such as collaboration, public meetings, open houses, workshops, and comment periods (36 CFR 219.16). Also see related term *Collaboration*.

Range of Variation Spatial and temporal variation in ecosystem characteristics during a period of time when the influences of European-American settlement were minimal.

Rangeland Land on which the indigenous vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominately grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs and is managed as a natural ecosystem. If plants are introduced, they are managed similarly. Rangeland includes natural grasslands, savannas, shrub lands, many deserts, tundras, alpine communities, marshes, and meadows.

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum A framework of land delineations that identifies a variety of recreation experience opportunities categorized into classes on a continuum. The Spectrum's continuum has been divided into six major classes for Forest Service use: Urban (U), Rural (R), Roaded Natural (RN), Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM), and Primitive (P). (FSM 2311)

Renewable Resources Assessment An appraisal of the Nation's renewable resources that recognizes their vital importance and the necessity for long-term planning and associated program development. The Assessment meets the requirements of section 3 of the Forest and Rangelands Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974 and includes analyses of present and anticipated uses, demands, and supplies of the renewable resources; a description of Forest Service programs and responsibilities; and a discussion of policy considerations, laws, and regulations.

Renewable Resources Program The program for management and administration of the National Forest System, for Research and Development, for Cooperative State and Private Forest Service programs, and for conduct of other Forest Service activities developed in accordance with the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. Unless and until the Resources Planning Act is amended, annual appropriations language substitutes the Government Performance and Results Act (5 U.S.C. 306) strategic plan for the RPA Program.

Research Natural Area A specially designated area in as near a natural condition as possible which exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, soil, geologic, and aquatic resources. The area is established by the Forest Service to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes.

Responsible Official The official with the authority and responsibility to oversee the planning process and to approve plans, plan amendments, and plan revisions. (36 CFR 219.16)

Reviewing Officer The supervisor of the responsible official. The reviewing officer responds to objections made to a plan, plan amendment, or plan revision prior to approval. (36 CFR 219.16)

Right-of-way (ROW) Public or National Forest System lands authorized to be used or occupied pursuant to a ROW grant or special use authorization.

Risk A combination of the likelihood that a negative outcome will occur and the severity of the subsequent negative consequences.

Science For the purposes of this manual, "science" refers to the knowledge, information, concepts, and theories based on organized systems of facts that have been learned from study, observation, and experience.

Science Consistency Review A process to determine whether scientific information of appropriate content, rigor, and applicability has been considered, evaluated, and synthesized in the documents that underlie the land management plan approval. The science consistency review does not advise the decisionmaker for or against a particular course of action.

Set of Documents See *Plan Document*

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Social and Economic Elements The variety of tangible and intangible uses, values, products, services, opportunities, and benefits provided by National Forest System lands.

Special Areas Areas in the National Forest System designated for their unique or special characteristics. (36 CFR 219.7)

Species-of-interest Species for which the responsible official determines that management actions may be necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple use objectives. (36 CFR 219.6)

Species-of-concern Species for which the responsible official determines that management actions may be necessary to prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act.(36 CFR 219.16)

Species Diversity The number and relative abundance of different species within a plan area.

Species-of-interest Species for which the responsible official determines that management actions may be necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple-use objectives. (36 CFR 219.16)

Stewardship Natural resource management emphasizing careful and conscientious use and conservation of resources and ecosystems in a sustainable manner.

Strategic Plan The Forest Service Strategic Plan identifies long-term strategic priorities and is the basis for integrated delivery of the agency's mission, following the criteria of the Government Performance and Results Act. (5 U.S.C. 306)

Suitability The appropriateness of a particular area of land for applying certain resource uses. A unit of land may be suitable for a variety of individual or combined management practices.

Sustainability Meeting needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Sustainability is composed of desirable social, economic, and ecological conditions or trends interacting at varying spatial and temporal scales embodying the principles of multiple-use and sustained-yield.

Timber Harvest The removal of trees for wood fiber utilization and other multiple use purposes. . (36 CFR 219.6)

Timber Production The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use (36 CFR 219.16). In addition, managing land to provide commercial timber products on a regulated basis with planned, scheduled entries.

Transportation and Utility Corridor A parcel of land, without fixed limits or boundaries, which is being used as the location for one or more transportation or utility right-of-way.

Visitor Opportunities The spectrum of settings, landscapes, scenery, facilities, services, access points, information, learning-based recreation, wildlife, natural features, cultural and heritage sites, and so forth available for National Forest System visitors to use and enjoy. (36 CFR 219.16)

Glossary of Planning Terms

Revised: Apr. 21, 2008

Watershed Condition The state of the watershed based on physical and biogeochemical characteristics and processes (such as, hydrologic, geomorphic, landscape, topographic, vegetative cover, and aquatic habitat), water flow characteristics and processes (such as volume and timing), and water quality characteristics and processes (such as chemical, physical, and biological) as they affect water quality and water resources. (65 FR 62572, October 18, 2000)

Wilderness Any area of land designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established in the Wilderness Act of 1964. (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136), (36 CFR 219.16)