

APPENDIX F

Glossary

A

Abiotic. Non-living. Climate is an abiotic component of ecosystems.

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

Adaptive Management. A type of natural resource management that implies making decisions as part of an on-going process. Monitoring the results of actions will provide a flow of information that may indicate the need to change a course of action. Scientific findings and the needs of society may also indicate the need to adapt resource management to new information.

Aerial Photograph. A photograph of the earth's surface taken from airborne equipment, sometimes called aerial photo or air photograph.

Arid. A term applied to regions or climates where lack of sufficient moisture severely limits growth and production of vegetation.

B

Bare Ground. All land surface not covered by vegetation, rock, or litter.

Barren. Any area devoid of vegetation, or practically so.

Biota. All the species of plants and animals occurring within an area or region.

Brush. A term encompassing various species of shrubs or small trees usually considered undesirable for livestock or timber management. The species may have value for browse, wildlife habitat, or watershed protection.

Bunch Grass. A grass having the characteristic growth habit of forming a bunch; lacking stolens or rhizomes.

Butte. An isolated hill with relatively steep sides.

C

Candidate Species. Any species being considered by the Secretary of the Interior for listing as an endangered or threatened species

but is undergoing a status review or is proposed for listing.

Canopy Cover. The percentage of ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage of plants. Small openings within the canopy are included.

Channelization. (1) The artificial enlargement or realignment of a stream channel. (2) Straightening a stream or river to allow water to travel through the area more quickly. (3) The process of changing or straightening the natural path of a waterway. Channelization is often used as a means of flood control, but its negative effects often outweigh its advantages. For example, channelization often damages wetlands associated with rivers and streams.

Classification. The assignment of items or concepts into classes based on similarity of selected attributes.

Community. An assemblage of populations of plants and/or animals in a common spatial arrangement.

Community Type. An aggregation of all plant communities distinguished by floristic and structural similarities in both overstory and undergrowth layers.

Conservation. (1)The use and management of natural resources according to principles that assure their sustained economic and/or social benefits without impairment of environmental quality. (2)The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources such as forests, soil, and water (www.dictionary.com).

Continuous Grazing. The grazing of a specific unit by livestock throughout the year or for that part of the year during which grazing is feasible. The term is not synonymous with *yearlong grazing*, since seasonal grazing may be involved.

Coordinated Resource Management Planning. The process whereby various user groups are involved in discussion of alternate resource uses and collectively diagnose management problems, establish goals and

objectives, and evaluate multiple use resource management.

Cover. (1) The plants or plant parts, living or dead, on the surface of the ground. Vegetative cover or herbage cover is composed of living plants and litter cover of dead parts of plants. (2) The area of ground cover by plants of one or more species.

Cover Type. The existing vegetation of an area.

D

Dam. A human-created embankment that controls or confines water (dike).

Debris. Accumulated plant and animal remains.

Deciduous (Plant). Plant parts, particularly leaves, that are shed at regular intervals, or at a given stage of development.

Deferment. Delay of grazing on an area for an adequate period of time to provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of vigor of existing plants.

Deferred Grazing. The use of *deferment* in *grazing management* of a management unit, but not in a systematic rotation including other units. cf. *grazing system*.

Deferred-Rotation. Any grazing system which provides for a systematic rotation of the deferment among pastures.

Distribution. The spatial or temporal array of a species. The geographic occurrence or range of an organism

Diversity. The distribution and abundance of different plants and animal communities within an area.

E

Easement. A voluntary agreement that allows a landowner to permanently limit the type and amount of development on their property while retaining private ownership.

Ecological Status. The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological

site in relation to the potential natural community for the site.

Ecological Type. A land classification category which is more specific than a phase of habitat type. Ecological types are commonly used to differentiate habitat phases into categories of land which differ in their ability to produce vegetation or their response to management.

Ecosystem. Organisms together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system, inhabiting an identifiable space.

Edge Effect. The influence of one adjoining plant community upon the margin of another affecting the composition and density of the populations. cf. *ecotone*.

Endangered Species. A plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Endangered species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Endemic. Native to or restricted to a particular area, region or country.

Environment. The sum of all external conditions that affect an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Erosion. (v.) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. (n.) The land surface worn away by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep.

Escarpment. A steep slope or ridge, terminating high lands abruptly, which was formed by erosion or by faulting.

Evergreen (Plant). A plant that has leaves all year round, and generally sheds them in a single season after new leaves of the current growing season have matured.

Exotic. An organism or species which is not native to the region in which it is found.

F

Fauna. The animal species of an area.

Feral. Escaped from cultivation or domestication and existing in the wild.

Flora. The plant species of an area.

Forb. Any broad-leafed herbaceous plant other than those in *Poaceae*, *Cyperaceae* and *Juncaceae* families.

Fragmentation The process of transforming large continuous grassland patches into one or more smaller patches surrounded by disturbed areas.

G

Game. (1) Wild birds, fish, and other animals taken for sport or for use as food. (2) Wildlife species so designated by law and the harvest of which is regulated by law.

GIS. Geographic Information System. Software for creating and managing spatial data.

Graminoid. Grass or grass-like plant, such as *Poa*, *Carex* and *Juncus* species.

Grass. A member of the family *Poaceae*.

Grassland. Land on which the vegetation is dominated by grasses, grasslike plants, and/or forbs.

Graze. (1) (vi.) The consumption of standing forage by livestock or wildlife. (2) (vt.) To put livestock to feed on standing forage.

Grazing. (vt.) To graze.

Grazing Management. The manipulation of grazing and browsing animals to accomplish a desired result.

Grazing Management Plan. A program of action designed to secure the best practicable use of the forage resources with grazing or browsing animals.

Grazing Season. (1) On public lands, an established period for which grazing permits are issued. May be established on private land in a *grazing management plan*. (2) The time interval when animals are allowed to utilize a certain area.

Grazing System. A specialization of *grazing management* which defines the periods of grazing and non-grazing.

Ground Truth. Measurements or observations made on the ground for the purpose of verifying interpretations made from aerial photography or remote sensing.

H

Habitat. (1) The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or naturally occurs. (2) The natural abode of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and edaphic factors affecting life.

Heavy Grazing. A comparative term which indicates that the stocking rate of a pasture is relatively greater than that of other pastures. Often erroneously used to mean overuse. cf. *light* and *moderate grazing*.

Herbaceous. Vegetative growth with little or no woody component. Non-woody vegetation such as graminoids and forbs.

Herbicide. A phytotoxic chemical used for killing or inhibiting the growth of plants.

I

Idle. Not in use or operation. An area of land left undisturbed or unmanaged (e.g., not burned, mowed, or grazed) during a given time period.

Indicator Species. (1) Species that indicate the presence of certain environmental conditions, seral stages, or previous treatment. (2) One or more plant species selected to indicate a certain level of grazing use. cf. *key species*.

Indigenous. Born, growing, or produced naturally (native) in an area, region, or country.

Introduced Species. A species not a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question. cf. *native and resident species*.

Invertebrate. An animal that does not have a backbone; examples include crayfish, insects and mollusks.

K

L

Landscape. (1) Aspects of the land characteristics of a particular region. (2) An area of land containing a mosaic of *habitat* patches. (3) Heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystems that is repeated in similar form throughout, not defined by size.

Light Grazing. A comparative term which indicates that the stocking rate of a pasture is relatively less than that of other pastures. Often erroneously used to mean under use. cf. *heavy* and *moderate grazing*.

Litter. The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface; essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetal material.

M

Management Plan. A program of action designed to reach a given set of objectives.

Marginal Land. Land of questionable physical or economic capabilities for sustaining a specific use.

Migrant. An animal that migrates, or makes regular trips to and from a nesting or wintering area. (Audubon Encyclopedia)

Migration. A regular movement, as used here, refers to the spring movements of birds from their wintering to their summering or nesting places, and the fall movements from their nesting grounds to their wintering places.

Mitigation. As defined in 40 CFR 1508.20, one or more of the following: (1) avoiding impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action and its implementation; (3) rectifying impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and (5) compensating for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Moderate Grazing. A comparative term which indicates that the stocking rate of a pasture is between the rates of other pastures. Often

erroneously used to mean proper use. cf. *heavy* and *light grazing*.

Monitoring. The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

Multiple Use. Use of range for more than one purpose, i.e., grazing of livestock, wildlife production, recreation, watershed and timber production.

N

Native Species. A species which is part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question.

Naturalized Species. A species not native to an area but which adapted to that area and has established a stable or expanding population. Does not require artificial inputs for survival and reproduction.

Niche. The ecological role of a species in a community.

Nongame. All species of native animals not commonly taken for sport or commercial purposes.

Nonpoint Source Pollution- Pollution whose source is not specific in location. The sources of the discharge are dispersed, not well defined, or constant. Rain storms and snowmelt often make this type of pollution worse. Examples include sediments from logging activities and runoff from agricultural chemicals.

Noxious Species. A plant species that is undesirable because it conflicts, restricts, or otherwise causes problems under management objectives.

Noxious Weed. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on humans and their environment and is therefore detrimental to public health and the agriculture and commerce of the United States.

O

Organism. Any living entity; plant, animal, fungus, etc.

Overgrazed Range. A range which has experienced loss of plant cover and accelerated erosion as a result of heavy grazing or browsing pressure.

Overgrazing. Continued heavy grazing which exceeds the recovery capacity of the community and creates a deteriorated range. cf. *overuse*.

Overstory. The upper canopy or canopies of plants. Usually refers to trees, tall shrubs and vines.

Overuse. Utilizing an excessive amount of the current year's growth which, if continued, will result in *range deterioration*. cf. *overgrazing*.

P

Pasture. (1) A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by fencing or other barriers; the management unit for grazing land. (2) Forage plants used as food for grazing animals. (3) Any area devoted to the production of forage, native or introduced, and harvested by grazing. (4) A group of subunits grazed within a rotational grazing system.

Pastureland. Grazing lands, planted primarily to introduced or domesticated native forage species, that receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing, weed control and irrigation. Not in rotation with crops.

Pesticide. Any chemical agent such as herbicide, fungicide, insecticide, etc., used for the control of a specific organism.

Plain. A broad stretch of relatively level treeless land.

Plant Succession. Syn. *Succession*.

Population. All the organisms that constitute a specific group or occur in a specified habitat.

Prairie. An extensive tract of level or rolling land that was originally predominantly treeless and grass-covered. cf. *grassland*, *rangeland*.

Prescribed Burning. The use of fire as a management tool under specified conditions for burning a predetermined area.

Proper Grazing. The act of continuously obtaining proper use.

Proper Use. A degree of utilization of current year's growth which, if continued, will achieve management objectives and maintain or improve the long-term productivity of the site. Proper use varies with time and systems of grazing.

Q

R

Range. (n.) Any land supporting vegetation suitable for grazing including rangeland, grazable woodland and shrubland. Range is not a use.

Range Condition. (a) A generic term relating to present status of a unit of range in terms of specific values or potentials. (b) The present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site.

Rangeland. Land on which the native vegetation (climax or natural potential) is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially when routine management of that vegetation is accomplished mainly through manipulation of grazing. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, and wet meadows.

Repeated Seasonal Grazing. A grazing strategy in which different kinds of pastures are arranged in a series and each is grazed at the same time each year, often for less than the full feasible grazing season to provide a special use. Syn. *seasonal grazing*.

Resident Species. Nonmigratory. A species common to an area without distinction as being native or introduced.

Rest. Leaving an area ungrazed, thereby foregoing grazing of one forage crop. Normally, rest implies absence of grazing for a full growing season or during a critical portion of plant development. cf. *deferment*.

Rest-Rotation. A grazing management scheme in which rest periods for individual pastures, paddocks or grazing units, generally for the full

growing season, are incorporated into a grazing rotation. cf. *grazing system*.

Riparian. Referring to or relating to areas adjacent to water or influenced by free water associated with streams or rivers on geologic surfaces occupying the lowest position on a watershed.

Rotation Grazing. A grazing scheme where animals are moved from one grazing unit (paddock) in the same group of grazing units to another without regard to specific graze-rest periods or levels of plant defoliation. cr. *grazing system*.

Runoff. The total stream discharge of water, including both surface and subsurface flow, usually expressed in acre-feet of water yield.

S

Seasonal Grazing. Grazing restricted to a specific season. Syn. seasonal use.

Semiarid. A term applied to regions or climates where moisture is normally greater than under arid conditions, but still definitely limits the production of vegetation.

Seral. Refers to species or communities that are eventually replaced by other species or communities within a sere.

Seral Stages. The developmental stages of an ecological succession.

Sere. All temporary communities in a successional sequence.

Short-Duration Grazing. Grazing management whereby relatively short periods (days) of grazing and associated non-grazing are applied to range or pasture units. Periods of grazing and non-grazing are based upon plant growth characteristics. Short duration grazing has nothing to do with intensity of grazing use.

Shrub. A plant that has persistent, woody stems and a relatively low growth habit, and that generally produces several basal shoots instead of a single bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature (generally less than 5 meters, or 16 feet) and non-arborescent form.

Shrubland. Any land on which shrubs dominate the vegetation.

Site. The place or seat of any specified thing.

Snag. A standing or fallen dead tree. Snags are important as habitat for a variety of wildlife species and their prey.

Species. A taxon or rank species; in the hierarchy or biological classification, the category below genus.

Species Composition. The proportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area. It may be expressed in terms of cover, density, weight, etc.

Standing Crop. The total amount of plant material per unit of space at a given time. Often is divided into above ground and below ground portions and further may be modified by the descriptors "dead" or "live" to more accurately define the specific type of biomass.

Stockpond. A water impoundment made by constructing a dam or by excavating a dugout or both, to provide water for livestock and wildlife.

Succession. The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential natural plant community. Primary succession entails simultaneous successions of soil from parent material and vegetation. Secondary succession occurs following disturbances on sites that previously supported vegetation, and entails plant succession on a more mature soil.

Suitability. The adaptability of a particular plant or animal species to a given area.

T

Threatened Species. Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of their range within the foreseeable future as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Tree. A woody perennial, usually single stemmed plant that has a definite crown shape and reaches a mature height of at least 16 feet (5 meters). There is no clearcut distinction

between trees and shrubs. Some plants, such as oaks, may grow as either trees or shrubs.

U

Undergrazing. The act of continued *underuse*.

Understory. Plants growing beneath the canopy of other plants. Usually refers to grasses, forbs and low shrubs under a tree or shrub canopy. cf. *overstory*.

Use. The proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

V

Vegetation. Plants in general, or the sum total of the plant life above and below ground in an area.

Vegetation Type. A kind of existing plant community with distinguishable characteristics described in terms of the present vegetation that dominates the aspect or physiognomy of the area.

W

Waterway. A way or channel for water.

Watershed. A region or area bounded peripherally by a water parting and draining ultimately to a particular watercourse or body of water.

Weed. (1) Any plant growing where unwanted. (2) A plant having a negative value within a given management system.

Wetland. Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: 1. at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; 2. the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and 3. the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Wildlife. Living organisms that are not in any way artificial or domesticated and living in a natural state. Commonly refers to fauna, not flora.

Woodland. A land area occupied by trees; a forest, woods.

Woody. A term used in reference to trees, shrubs, or browse that characteristically contain persistent ligneous material.

X

Y

Yearlong Grazing. Continuous grazing for a calendar year.

Z

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