

ILRCC: Glossary of Terms

- Agroforestry** – An integrated approach of using the interactive benefits from combining trees and shrubs with crops and/or livestock. It combines agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems.
- American Tree Farm System** – A network of more than 83,000 woodland owners sustainably managing 26 million acres of forestland. It is the largest and oldest sustainable family woodland system in America, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards.
- Anadromous fish** – fish that live in the ocean mostly, and breed in fresh water (i.e. species of salmon)
- Aquifer** – An underground bed or layer of permeable rock, sediment, or soil that yields water
- Best management practices (BMPs)** – A method or combination of methods that is an effective and practical way (technologically and economically) to prevent undesirable results.
- Biodiversity** - the number and variety of species of plant and animal life within a region
- Biomass (woody)** – The trees and woody plants, including limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts, grown in forest, woodland, or rangeland environments that are the byproducts of forest management
- Carbon sequestration** – The process by which atmospheric carbon dioxide is absorbed by trees and other plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in biomass (trunks, branches, foliage, and roots), soils, and wood products. Adopting certain agricultural and forestry activities can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to the atmosphere and sequester additional carbon.
- Collaboration** –A recursive process where two or more people or organizations work together in an intersection of common goals
- Collaborative Group** – A cooperative advisory group representing diverse interests organized to address land management issues and resolve conflicts within an identified area
- Conservation easement** – A legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place on the land in perpetuity while the land remains in private hands
- Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP)** – A projection of wood product offerings within and between agencies within an investor landscape.
- Development** – The increase in the density of residential, commercial or industrial structures on the landscape. Loss of productive urban and rural forests to development is a critical issue in Idaho.
- Ecological restoration** – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. The concept of ecological restoration is forward-looking. Restoration focuses on reestablishing composition, structure, and ecological processes to maintain or increase resilience of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems in a dynamic, continually evolving world.
- Ecosystem** – An interacting system of living organisms, soil and climatic factors. Forests, wetlands, watersheds, ponds, prairies and communities are ecosystems.
- Ecosystem services** – Benefits people obtain from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes, air and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis, and nutrient cycling.
- Environment** – The complex surroundings of an item or area of interest, such as air, water, natural resources and their physical conditions (temperature and humidity).

Erosion – The wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice or other geologic agents and by such processes as gravitational creep

Forest – A large area where trees grow close together. Forests can be in rural and urban areas.

Forest Action Plan Forest (FAP) Resource Assessment – A geospatial analysis of the conditions and trends of forests in Idaho, based upon seven key issues and 24 sub-issues categorized into threats to and potential benefits from forests. The assessment uses best available data for informing these issues and is an objective method for identifying areas within the state where focusing resources will have the greatest opportunity to address shared priorities.

Forest diversity – Different types of forest communities and numbers of species within forests

Forest health – A measure of the robustness of forest ecosystems. Aspects of forest health include biological diversity; soil, air, and water productivity; natural disturbances; and the capacity of the forest to provide a sustained flow of goods and services for people.

Forest loss – The conversion of forestland to some other land use

Forest structure – The complexity of the vertical and horizontal forest

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) – An independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC certification is a voluntary, market-based tool that supports responsible forest management worldwide. FSC certified forest products are verified from the forest of origin through the supply chain

Forestry – The practice of creating, managing, using, and conserving forests for human benefit

Fragmentation – The process by which large continuous tracts of forestland are broken into smaller, disconnected units

Greenhouse gasses (GHGs) – Gasses, including methane, chlorofluorocarbons and carbon dioxide, which act as a shield that traps heat in the earth's atmosphere and thought to contribute to global warming

Habitat – The area or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs

Hardwoods – Dicotyledonous trees, usually broadleaf and deciduous

Harvesting – Felling, loading and transporting forest products, round wood or logs

Hazard fuels reduction – Any treatment of living and dead fuels that reduces the potential spread or undesirable effects of fire

Herbaceous – A non-woody type of plant that grows along the forest floor and has leaves and stems which die down at the end of the growing season to the soil level

Herbicide – Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent the growth of or destroy terrestrial or aquatic weeds

Hydrologic Unit Code – A series of numbers in a nested hierarchy that are used to identify a watershed size and location. The greater number of digits in the identification number, the smaller the area. The first two digits identify the region of the United States. An eight-digit hydrologic unit code typically identifies a basin and averages around 703 square miles. A 14-digit code is typically the smallest watershed identified.

Impervious – Surface that is not passable for water

Invasive species – Species, which is often non-native, whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (LFSP) – A multi-resource plan that lays out strategies for achieving unique landowner objectives and sustaining forest health and vigor

Landscape scale –The scale which is relevant to the phenomenon under consideration and which is of sufficient size where actions have a real, meaningful and persistent affect

Native species – A species that is a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question

Noxious Weeds – The 64 different species of weeds which are designated noxious by Idaho state law

Off highway vehicles (OHVs) – As used in this report, any type of vehicle which is capable of driving on and off paved or gravel surfaces for recreation. OHV used in designated areas is a popular and supported form of recreation. OHV use in undesignated areas can degrade forests.

Ozone – As used in this document, an unstable, poisonous allotrope of oxygen (O₃) produced in the lower atmosphere by the photochemical reaction of certain pollutants such as volatile organic compounds.

Parcelization – The change in ownership patterns when larger forested tracts are divided into smaller parcels owned by several owners.

Prescribed fire – Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area. The application produces the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

Priority Landscape Area – For this document, an areas within which significant portions rated as high and very high priority by the Idaho Forest Action Plan Resource Assessment, and which share similar vegetative, geographic and management characteristics

Regeneration – Process of replacing old trees with young through harvest or other means

Restoration – The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. (Thinning and prescribed fire are examples of vegetation management tools used to accomplish forest restoration.)

Riparian – Pertaining to the banks of a stream, river or pond

Runoff – Portion of precipitation that flows from a drainage area or in open channels

Sedimentation – process that deposits soils, debris and other materials in bodies of water

Seedling – A small, young tree, less than 3 years old

Silviculture – The science and art of controlling the establishment, composition, and growth of forests

Stakeholders – With respect to this document, Federal, state and local agencies, organizations and individuals that influence or are otherwise interested, involved, or affected by an Idaho statewide forest resource management strategy.

Stand Structure – A description of the distribution and representation of stand age and stand size classes within a stand. The distribution of trees in a stand, which can be described by species, vertical or horizontal spatial patterns, size of trees or tree parts, age, or a combination of these.

State and Private Forestry – An organization of the USDA Forest Service that partners with states to deliver technical and financial assistance to landowners and resource managers to help sustain the Nation’s state, tribal, non-industrial and community forests

Softwood – Coniferous trees, usually evergreen, having leaves that are needles or scale like

Soil – Unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth, serving as a natural medium for the growth of plants

Stream – A body of concentrated flowing water in a natural low area of land

Sustainability – The capacity to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs; integrates environmental, social, and economic concerns and outcomes.

Sustainable forest management – Management in an attempt to attain balance between society's increasing demands for forest products and benefits, and the conservation and maintenance of forest health and diversity

Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – An independent, non-profit organization responsible for maintaining, overseeing and improving a sustainable forestry certification program. The standard for certification is based on principles and measures that promote sustainable forest management and consider all forest values.

Thinning – Cutting or removing certain trees to allow those remaining to grow faster. Usually a commercial operation in younger stands that brings an income to the landowner while improving a forest.

Treatments – Management or harvesting activities applied to a forest stand to alter the condition of the stand. Treatments may or may not generate revenue.

Tree – Woody plant having one erect perennial stem or trunk at least 3 inches diameter at breast height, a more or less definitely formed crown of foliage, and a height of at least 13 feet (at maturity).

Uncharacteristic wildland fire – An increase in wildfire size, severity, and resistance to control compared to that which occurred prior to European settlement.

Urban and Community Forestry – The care and management of tree populations in communities (urban and Community forests) as a critical part of the urban infrastructure and for the purpose of improving the urban environment

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – Organic chemical compounds which have significant vapor pressures and which can affect the environment and human health. Higher temperatures and sunlight are factors that increase the production of VOCs.

Watershed – Area within which all runoff collects into a single stream or drainage system, exiting through a single mouth or outlet

Wetland – Transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated with water for long enough periods to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) – areas where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland

Wildfires – Uncontrolled fires occurring in forestland, brushland and grassland

Wood products – Materials developed from use of the hard fibrous substance (wood) which makes up the greater part of the trunks and limbs of trees. Solid wood products include lumber, veneer and plywood, furniture, poles, piling, mine timbers, and posts; and composite wood products include laminated timbers, insulation board, hardboard, and particleboard. Woody biomass (see biomass) is also considered a wood product.