

CHAPTER 7

GLOSSARY

Glossary

These definitions apply to Forest Service land management and planning. Meanings may differ when used in another context. Glossary definitions are not legal unless otherwise noted. Definitions were shortened, paraphrased or adapted to fit local conditions and for ease of understanding.

A

Access	The opportunity to approach, enter, and make use of public lands.
Access management	Acquiring rights and developing and maintaining facilities needed by people to get to and move through public lands (physical attributes).
Active channel	As defined for purposes of the riparian standards and guidelines . . . includes stream channels*, secondary channels*, and braided channels*. For the Alluvial Fan Process Group, it also includes gravel outwash lobes. (Words marked by a * have further definitions within the glossary.)
Administrative site	Lands used as headquarters or administrative facility by a Federal agency.
AFHA	See Anadromous Fisheries Habitat Assessment
AHMU	Aquatic Habitat Management Unit.
Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)	The maximum quantity of timber that may be sold in each decade from suitable lands covered by the Forest Plan.
Alpine	Parts of mountains above tree growth.
Alternative	An option proposed for decision making.
Amenity	Resource use, object, feature, quality, or experience that gives pleasure or is pleasing to the mind or senses. Amenity value typically describes those resource properties for which monetary values (or market values) are not or cannot be established.
Anadromous fish	Fish which mature and spend much of their adult life in the ocean, returning to inland waters to spawn. Salmon and steelhead are examples.

7 Glossary

Anadromous Fisheries Habitat Assessment	An assessment conducted in 1994 within the Tongass National Forest (published in 1995) to study the effectiveness of current procedures for protecting anadromous fish habitat and to determine the need for any additional protection.
ANCSA	The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971. Public Law 92-203, 92nd Congress, 85 Stat. 688-716.
ANILCA	The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of December 2, 1980. Public Law 96-487, 96th Congress, 94 Stat. 2371-2551.
Appropriation of land	The act of selecting, devoting, or setting apart land for a particular use or purpose, such as appropriating land for public buildings and military reservations or other public uses (Black, 1979).
Aquaculture	Maintaining, enhancing, and rehabilitating fish stocks through improvements and facilities, including the rearing of anadromous juvenile fish, generally in fresh water, for release into salt water for maturing, to become available as a common property resource.
Aquatic ecosystem	A stream channel, lake or estuary bed, the water itself, and the biotic communities that occur therein.
Arterial roads	Classified roads that provide service to large land areas; arterial roads are usually developed and operated for long-term land and resource management purposes and constant service.
ASQ	See Allowable Sale Quantity.
Available timberlands	Timberland not withdrawn from use in production of timber products as a result of administrative statute or regulation.
B	
Background	The distant part of a landscape. The seen, or viewed, area located from three or five miles to infinity from the viewer. (See "Foreground" and "Middleground".)
Bankfull width	The width of the wetted channel when the water surface is at the same elevation as the active floodplain.
Beach fringe	The area inland from salt water shorelines which is typically forested.
Beachlog salvage	The salvage of logs that have been washed-up on beaches. Special provisions in ANILCA allow beachlog salvage in Wilderness and National Monuments if it can be conducted without roads or use of vehicles on uplands.
Bedload	Sand, silt, and gravel, or soil and rock debris rolled along the bottom of a stream by the moving water. The particles of this material have a density or grain size which prevents movement far above or for a long distance out of contact with the streambed under natural flow conditions.
Benthic	Pertaining to the sea bottom or to organisms that live on the sea bottom.

Best Management Practices (BMPs)	Land management methods, measures or practices selected by an agency to meet its non-point source control needs. BMP's include, but are not limited to structural and nonstructural controls and operation and maintenance procedures. BMP's can be applied before, during and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters. BMP's are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility. BMP's are found in Forest Service Handbook 2509.22.
Biogeographic provinces	Twenty-one ecological subdivisions of Southeast Alaska that are identified by generally distinct ecological, physiogeographic, and biogeographic features. Plant and animal species composition, climate, and geology within each province are generally more similar within than among adjacent provinces. Historical events (such as glaciers and uplifting) are important to the nature of the province and to the barriers that distinguish each province.
Biological diversity (Biodiversity)	The variety of life forms and processes, including the complexity of species, communities, gene pools, and ecological functions, within the area covered by a land management plan.
Blowdown	See windthrow.
BMPs	See Best Management Practices.
Board foot	A unit of timber measurement equaling the amount of wood contained in an unfinished board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long and 12 inches wide.
 C 	
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations.
Channel	A natural waterway of perceptible extent that periodically or continuously contains moving water. It has a definite bed and banks which serve to confine the water.
Channel type	A means of distinguishing parts of a stream system into segments which have fairly consistent physical and biological characteristics. For descriptions, see "Channel Type Field Guide," Forest Service publication R10-MB-6.
Class (streams)	See Stream class.
Classified roads	Roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for motor vehicle access, such as State roads, County roads, privately-owned roads, National Forest System roads, and roads authorized by the Forest Service that are intended for long-term use.
Clearcut	Harvesting method in which all trees are cleared in one cut. It prepares the area for a new, even-aged stand. The area harvested may be a patch, stand, or strip large enough to be mapped or recorded as a separate age class in planning.

7 Glossary

Collector roads	Classified roads serving smaller land areas than arterial roads; collector roads collect traffic from local roads and usually connect to forest arterial roads or State and County highways. They are operated for either constant or intermittent service depending on land use and resource management objectives.
Connectivity	A measure of the extent that forest areas between or outside reserves provide habitat for breeding, feeding, dispersal, and movement.
Convey	To pass or transmit the title to property from one to another (Black 1979).
Conveyance	An instrument by which some estate or interest in lands is transferred from one person to another (Black 1979); a transfer of legal title to land.
Corridor (transportation)	A linear strip of land defined for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries. For planning purposes, potential and proposed corridors are depicted on the Plan map to show approximate corridor routes and widths. Actual corridor routes and boundaries for new systems will be identified through site-specific transportation and/or utility project planning.
Corridor (habitat)	Habitats, often linear, that facilitate dispersal and movement of wildlife between larger patches of suitable habitat. (Also see “connectivity.”)
Corridor (Wild & Scenic Rivers)	Wild, scenic and recreational river corridors are generally comprised of the area within 1/4 mile either side of the ordinary high water mark of the river. River corridor boundaries may be changed as a result of specific river planning following inclusion of the River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system.
Cumulative effects	See Effects.
D	
DBH	See Diameter at Breast Height.
Decommissioning	Demolition, dismantling, removal, obliteration, or disposal of a deteriorated or otherwise unneeded asset or component, including necessary cleanup work. This action eliminates the deferred maintenance needs for the fixed asset. Portions of an asset or component may remain if they do not cause problems or require maintenance.
Demand	The amount of goods or services that will be consumed if offered over a given range of prices at a particular point in time.
Developed recreation	That type of recreation that occurs where modifications (improvements) enhance recreation opportunities and accommodate intensive recreation activities in a defined area.
Development LUDs	Land use designations that permit commercial timber harvest (Timber Production, Modified Landscape, and Scenic Viewshed) and convert some of the old-growth forest to early-to mid-successional, regulated forests.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)	The diameter of a standing tree at a point four feet, six inches from ground level.
Dispersed recreation	That type of recreation use that requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves activities related to roads, trails and undeveloped waterways and beaches. The activities do not necessarily take place on or adjacent to a road, trail, or waterway, only in conjunction with it. Activities are often day-use oriented and include hunting, fishing, boating, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and among others.
Dissected landforms	A physical, recognizable form or feature of the earth's surface such as a mountain, hill, or valley, having a characteristic shape, that in part is the result of several shallow or deeply incised drainage channels.
Distance zone	Areas of landscapes denoted by specified distances from the observer (foreground*, middleground*, or background*). Used as a frame of reference in which to discuss landscape characteristics of management activities. (Words marked by a * have further definitions within the glossary.)
Disturbance	A force that results in changes in the structure and composition through natural events such as wind, fire, flood, avalanche, or mortality caused by insect or disease outbreaks or by human caused events (e.g., timber harvest).
Diversity	See Biological diversity.
E	
Ecological provinces	See Biogeographic provinces.
Ecosystem	A complete, interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment (e.g., a marsh, a watershed, or a lake).
Effects	Direct. Results of an action occurring when and where that action takes place. Indirect. Results of an action occurring at a location other than where the action takes place and/or later in time, but in the reasonably foreseeable future. Cumulative. Results of collective past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions.
EIS	See Environmental Impact Statement.
Encumbrance	A claim, lien, charge, or liability attached to and binding real property (Black 1979).
Endangered species	Any species of animal or plant that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Plant or animal species identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.
Endemic	Restricted to a particular locality. For example, a particular species or subspecies may occur on only one or a very few islands.

7 Glossary

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A document prepared by a federal agency in which anticipated environmental effects of a planned course of action or development are evaluated. A federal statute (Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) requires that such statements be prepared. It is prepared first in draft or review form, and then in a final form. An impact statement includes the following points: (1) the environmental impact of the proposed action, (2) any adverse impacts which cannot be avoided by the action, (3) the alternative courses of actions, (4) the relationships between local short-term use of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and (5) a description of the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would occur if the action were accomplished.
Escapement	Adult anadromous fish that escape from all causes of mortality (natural or human-caused) to return to streams to spawn.
Estuary	An ecological system at the mouth of a stream where fresh water and salt water mix, and where salt marshes and intertidal mudflats are present. The landward extent of an estuary is the limit of salt-intolerant vegetation, and the seaward extent is a stream's delta at mean low water.
EVC	See Existing Visual Condition.
Even-aged management	The application of a combination of actions that result in the creation of stands in which trees of essentially the same age grow together. The difference in age between trees in forming the main canopy level of a stand usually does not exceed 20 percent of that age of the stand at harvest rotation age. Clearcut, shelterwood, or seed tree cutting methods produce even-aged stands.
Exchange	A trading of public lands (surface or subsurface estates) that usually do not have high public value for lands in other ownerships which do have value for public use, management, and enjoyment.
Executive Order	An order or regulation issued by the President or some administrative authority under his direction.
Existing Visual Condition (EVC)	<p>EVC ratings are established to give the land manager an indication of the current level of visual quality and visual evidence of management activities. EVC classes are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Type 1. Appears to be untouched by human activities, except for trails needed for access; only ecological changes have occurred.Type 2. Changes in the landscape are not noticed unless pointed out.Type 3. Changes in the landscape are noticed as minor disturbances, but the natural appearance of the landscape remains dominant.Type 4. Changes in the landscape are easily noticed and perceived as disturbances, but resemble natural patterns.Type 5. Changes stand out as a dominant impression on the landscape, yet are shaped to resemble natural patterns from 3-5 miles or more distant.Type 6. Changes are in glaring contrast to the landscape's natural appearance; excessive visual alteration has occurred.

F

Falldown	The difference between the number of acres planned for timber harvest and those actually harvested, usually experienced as a reduction in acres. Falldown results from many factors, including unmapped unsuitable timber land, newly available information, and project-level consideration of site-specific issues and non-timber resource needs. See also Management Implementation Reduction Factor.
Fish Passage	The ability of both adult and juvenile fish to move both up and down stream.
Flood plain	That portion of a river valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood stages in response to a 100-year storm event.
Foreground	A term used in visual management to describe the stand of trees immediately adjacent to a scenic area, recreation facility or forest highway. The area is located less than 1/4 mile from the viewer. (See Background and Middleground.)
Forest health	An expression of the relationship among biotic and abiotic influences on the forest (i.e., insects, diseases, atmospheric deposition, silvicultural treatments, harvesting practices, natural disturbance process) and the ability to achieve management objectives for a given forest unit now or in the future, and sustain long-term site productivity.
Forest Plan	Source of management direction for an individual Forest specifying activity and output levels for a period of 10-15 years. Management direction in the plan is based on the issues identified at the time of the plan's development.
Forested land	Land at least 10 percent occupied by forest trees of any size or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for non-forest use.
Forested wetland	A wetland whose vegetation is characterized by an overstory of trees that are 20 feet or taller.
Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines	A set of rules and guidance that directs management activities and establishes the environmental quality, natural renewable and depletable resource requirements, conservation potential, and mitigation measures that apply to several land use designations.
FORPLAN	The forest planning model. A linear programming software package used to analyze planning decisions regarding land use patterns, capital investment, and timber harvest scheduling.
Fragmentation	An element of biological diversity that describes the natural condition of habitats in terms of the size of discrete habitat blocks or patches, their distribution, the extent to which they are interconnected, and the effects of management on these natural conditions. Also the process of reducing the size and connectivity of stands within a forest.
FSH	Forest Service Handbook.
FSM	Forest Service Manual.

7 Glossary

G

Glacial refugia	The areas of Southeast Alaska that were not covered by glaciers during the last ice age.
Glacial rivers and streams	Rivers and streams that receive their main flow characteristics from the presence and activities of ice and glaciers and their meltwater.
Group Selection	A harvesting method in which trees are removed in small groups at a time.
Guideline	A preferred or advisable course of action or level of attainment designed to promote achievement of goals and objectives.

H

Habitat	The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife or plant species or a population of each species.
Habitat capability	The estimated maximum number of fish or wildlife that can be supported by the amount and distribution of suitable habitat in an area.
Haul out	Areas used by marine mammals for resting and other social/biological activities which occur in the intertidal zone.
Heritage Resources	The physical remains of districts, sites, structures, buildings, networks, events, or objects used by humans in the past. They may be historic, prehistoric, architectural, or archival in nature. Heritage resources are non-renewable aspects of our national heritage.
Historic property	Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places. The term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties.
Hydrologic cycle	The complete cycle through which water passes, commencing as atmospheric water vapor, passing into liquid and solid form as precipitation, thence along or into the ground surface, and finally again returning to the form of atmospheric water vapor by means of evaporation and transpiration. Also called Water Cycle.

I

IDT	See Interdisciplinary Team.
Interdisciplinary Team (IDT)	A group of individuals with different training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one scientific discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. Through interaction, participants bring different points of view and a broader range of expertise to bear on the problem.

Interior old-growth forest	The region of a forested stand that has a stable microclimate relative to light, wind, humidity, moisture regime, etc. Natural forest ecotones (see glossary) “seal” a forests edge and stabilize these microclimate features. Ecotones created by management such as the old growth - clearcut edge may have “edge” effects that extend into a forest for several hundred feet (estimated 2-3 tree heights) before stable “interior forest” conditions are achieved and microclimatic effects of the edge are no longer evident.
Inventoried roadless area	Undeveloped areas typically exceeding 5,000 acres that met the minimum criteria for wilderness consideration under the Wilderness Act and that were inventoried during the Forest Service’s Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II) process, subsequent assessments, or forest planning.
Irretrievable commitments	Applies to losses of production or use of renewable natural resources for a period of time. For example, timber production from an area is irretrievably lost during the time an area is allocated to a no-harvest prescription. If the allocation is changed to allow timber harvest, timber production can be resumed. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.
Irreversible commitments	Decisions causing changes which cannot be reversed. For example, if a roadless area is allocated to allow timber harvest and timber is actually harvested, that area generally cannot, at a later date, be allocated to Wilderness. Once harvested, the ability of that area to meet Wilderness criteria has been irreversibly lost. Often applies to nonrenewable resources such as minerals and cultural resources.
Issue	A point, matter, or section of public discussion or interest to be addressed or decided.
 K 	
Karst	A type of topography that develops in areas underlain by soluble rocks, primarily limestone. Dissolution of the subsurface strata results in areas of well-developed, surface drainage that are sinkholes, collapsed channels, or caves.
 L 	
Lacustrine wetland	Includes permanently flooded lakes and reservoirs, intermittent lakes, and tidal lakes with ocean-derived salinities of less than 0.5 percent. Typically, there are extensive areas of deep water and there is considerable wave action.
Land allocation	The decision to use land for various resource management objectives to best satisfy the issues, concerns and opportunities and meet assigned forest output targets.
Land exchange	The conveyance of non-Federal land or interests to the United States in exchange for National Forest System land or interests in land.

7 Glossary

Land Use Designation (LUD)	A defined area of land specific to which management direction is applied. (See also Land Use Prescriptions.)
Land Use Prescriptions	Specific management direction applied to a defined area of land (land use designation) to attain multiple use and other goals and objectives.
Landform	Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the earth's surface, having a characteristic shape, and produced by natural causes. Major forms included are plains, plateaus, and mountains; minor forms are hills, valleys, slopes, eskers, and dunes.
Large Woody Debris (LWD)	Any piece of relatively stable woody material, having a diameter of four inches or greater and a length greater than three feet, that intrudes into a stream channel. Formerly called large organic debris.
Leasable minerals	Generally includes minerals such as coal, oil, gas, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil shale, sulfur, and geothermal steam.
Local roads	Classified roads that connect terminal activities (e.g., trail head, log landing, camping site) to collector and arterial roads. They are constructed to meet the access requirements of a specific resource activity rather than for travel efficiency. When not in use for the activity for which they were constructed, local roads may be used for other purposes. They are often closed to restrict motor use.
Locatable minerals	Includes minerals such as gold, silver, lead, zinc, copper, and mercury.
Log Transfer Facilities (LTF)	Formerly referred to as Terminal Transfer Facilities, Log Transfer Facilities include the site and structures used for moving logs and timber products from land-based transportation forms to water-based transportation forms (or vice versa).
Logging slash	The wood residue left on the ground after harvesting. It includes unused logs, uprooted stumps, broken or uprooted stems, tops, branches, and leaves.
LTF	See Log Transfer Facilities.
LUD	See Land Use Designation.
LWD	See Large Woody Debris.

M

Managed stand	A stand of trees in which stocking level control is applied to achieve maximum growth.
Management Implementation Reduction Factor (MIRF)	An adjustment made to the timber outputs of the FORPLAN computer model to account for anticipated effects on timber availability that cannot be accounted for in the computer model. (See also Falldown.)
MBF	Thousand Board Feet.

Middleground	The visible terrain beyond the foreground where individual trees are still visible but do not stand out distinctly from the landscape. The area is located from 1/4 to 3-5 miles from the viewer. (See Foreground and Background.)
Mineral development	The activities and facilities associated with extracting mineral deposits.
Mineral entry	Filing a mining claim on public land to obtain the right to mine any minerals it may contain. Also the filing for a mill site on Federal land for the purpose of processing off-site minerals.
Mineral exploration	The search for valuable minerals on lands open to mineral entry.
Mineral rights	The rights of one who owns the mineral estate (subsurface).
Mineral withdrawal	A formal designation by the Secretary of Interior which precludes entry or disposal of mineral commodities under the mining and/or mineral leasing laws.
Mining claims	A geographic area of the public lands held under the general mining laws in which the right of exclusive possession is vested in the locator of a valuable mineral deposit.
MIRF	See Management Implementation Reduction Factor.
Mitigate	To lessen or make minimal the severity. For cultural resources, to lessen or minimize an adverse effect upon a cultural resource listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The two categories of mitigation most often used are project modification and data recovery.
MMBF	Million Board Feet.
Model	An idealized representation of reality developed to describe, analyze, or understand it; a mathematical representation of the relationships under study (e.g., FORPLAN, wildlife habitat capability models).
Modification	See Visual Quality Objectives.
Monitoring	Gathering information and observing results of management activities to provide a basis for the periodic evaluation of the Forest Plan.
Motorized equipment	Machines that use a motor, engine, or other nonliving power sources. This includes, but is not limited to, chain saws, aircraft, snowmobiles, generators, motorboats, and motor vehicles. It does not include small battery or gas powered hand carried devices such as shavers, wristwatches, flashlights, cameras, stoves, or other similar small equipment.
Multiple use	The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources.
Muskeg	See Peatland.

7 Glossary

N

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)	An act declaring a National policy to encourage productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man, to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.
National Forest Management Act (NFMA)	A law passed in 1976 that amends the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and requires the preparation of Forest Plans.
National Forest System (NFS) Land	Federal lands that have been designated by Executive order or statute as National Forests, National Grasslands, or Purchase Units, or other lands under the administration of the Forest Service.
National Forest System road	A classified forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The term “National Forest System road” is synonymous with the term “Forest development road,” as used in 23 U.S.C. 205.
National Register of Historic Places	A register of cultural resources of national, state, or local significance, maintained by the Department of the Interior.
National Wild and Scenic River System	Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for preservation of their free-flowing condition.
Native selection	Application by Native corporations formed under authority of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA - Public Law 92–203, 85 Stat. 688) and by Native individuals (under Section 14(h)(5), ANCSA) to the USDI Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for conveyance of a portion of lands withdrawn under ANCSA in fulfillment of Native entitlements established under ANCSA. Native village corporations had three years from the date of ANCSA (December 18, 1971) to make their selections and regional corporations had four years. Native individuals who met the criteria had two years from the date of ANCSA to make application under Section 14(h)(5). BLM regulations allowed Native corporations formed under ANCSA to select in excess of their entitlements to ensure sufficient land would be available to meet full entitlement. Remaining lands in excess of entitlement which have been selected but not conveyed will revert back to unencumbered National Forest System land status after full entitlement is reached.
NIC	See Non-interchangeable Components.
Non-declining even flow	A policy governing the volume of timber removed from a National Forest, which states that the volume planned for removal in each succeeding decade will equal or exceed that volume planned for removal in the previous decade.
Non-development LUDs	Land use designations that do not permit commercial timber harvest and generally maintain the integrity of the existing old-growth ecosystem.
Nonforest land	Land that has never supported forests and lands formerly forested but now developed for such nonforest uses as crops, improved pasture, etc.

Non-interchangeable Components

Non-interchangeable components (NICs) are defined as increments of the suitable land base and their contribution to the allowable sale quantity (ASQ) that are established to meet Forest plan objectives. NICs are identified as parcels of land and the type of timber thereon which are differentiated for the purpose of Forest plan implementation. The total ASQ is derived from the sum of the timber volumes from all NICs. The NICs cannot be substituted for each other in the timber sale program.

NIC I. Normal Operability: This is volume scheduled from suitable lands using existing logging systems. Most of these lands are expected to be economic under projected market conditions. On average, sales from these lands have the highest probability of offering a reasonable opportunity for a purchaser to gain a profit from his/her investment and labor. This is the best operable ground.

Normal operability includes those systems most frequently used on the Tongass. These systems are tractor, shovel, standard cable and some helicopter.

Tractor - Tractor logging includes all ground wheel or track system used for skidding logs to a landing. Shovel yarding is included; however, tractor or rubber-tire skidding used in conjunction with swing operations are not included.

Standard Cable - The most typical logging systems used on the Tongass. Included in the standard cable system component are highlead uphill, highlead downhill, slackline, running skyline, and flyer.

Standard Helicopter - Helicopter yarding with yarding distances up to three quarters of a mile.

NIC II. Difficult and Isolated Operability: This is volume scheduled from suitable lands that are available for harvest using logging systems not in common use in Southeast Alaska. Most of these lands are presently considered economically and technologically marginal.

Difficult operability includes those systems used on the Tongass which have significantly higher cost. These may include balloon, long-span skyline, multi-span, or helicopter with yarding distances greater than three-quarters of a mile. This category also includes lands which have limited access as a result of being isolated by prior harvest activities or other management activities.

Long Span Cable - Cable systems which require longer than average yarding distances. Typical long span cable systems considered are standing skylines and multispan.

Access Limitation - Logging systems required for areas with access limitation concerns. The logging system could be highlead cable when access to timber and roading is difficult. Typical harvest systems are helicopter and swing operations.

Isolated Operability - This class is comprised entirely of isolated stands. These are small stands of isolated timber which are extremely difficult to harvest. The harvest system could vary, but would be more costly due to the location of the stand. Typical harvest systems are helicopter with average yarding distances greater than one mile.

Nonmarket value

Products derived from National Forest resources that do not have a well-established monetary (market) value. For example, wilderness and wildlife. (Noncash economic benefits.)

7 Glossary

O

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)	Any vehicle which is restricted by law from operating on public roads for general motor vehicle traffic. Includes motorbikes, minibikes, trailbikes, snowmobiles, dunebuggies, all-terrain vehicles, and four-wheel drive, high clearance vehicles (FSM 2355.01). Sometimes referred to as Off-Road Vehicle or “ORV.”
OHV	See Off-Highway Vehicle.
Old-growth forest	Ecosystems distinguished by the later stages of forest stand development that differs significantly from younger forests in structure, ecological function, and species composition. Old-growth forest is characterized by a patchy, multi-layered canopy; trees that represent many age classes; large trees that dominate the overstory, large standing dead (snags) or decadent trees; and higher accumulations of large down woody material. The structure and function of an old-growth ecosystem will be influenced by its stand size and landscape position and context.
Old-growth associated species	Plant and animal species with habitat relationships that exhibit a strong association with old-growth forests.
Old-growth habitat reserve	A contiguous unit of old-growth forest habitat to be managed to maintain the integrity of the old-growth forest ecosystem.
Open road density	The length of forest development roads open for public access and use per unit area of land; usually expressed as miles of open road per square mile of land.
Operability	See Non-interchangeable Components.
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle. (See Off-Highway Vehicle.)
Other forest land	Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions.
Output	The measurable goods, end products, or services resulting from management activities that are purchased, consumed, or used directly by people.
Overselection	Unconveyed lands selected in excess of entitlement. Overselections by the State of Alaska are authorized in Section 906 (f), ANILCA. They are authorized for Native Corporations organized under ANCSA in Federal Regulations (43 CFR 2650).

P

Palustrine wetland	Includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean derived salts is below 0.5 percent.
Partial cut	Any cutting in which only part of the stand is harvested. This may include thinning, selection, shelterwood, or an overstory removal.
Partial retention	See “Visual Quality Objectives.”

Peatland	A wetland type (also called “muskeg”) in Southeast Alaska that has developed over thousands of years in depressions, or flat areas on gentle to steep slopes. These bogs have poorly drained, acidic, organic soils materials that support vegetation that can be either sphagnum moss or herbaceous plants or sedges, rushes, and forbs or may be a combination of sphagnum moss and herbaceous plants. These vegetation types may have a lesser abundance of shrubs and stunted trees.
Planning records	A system that records decisions and activities that result from the process of developing a forest plan, revision, or significant amendment.
Plant association	Climax forest plant community type representing the endpoint of succession.
Plant communities	An assemblage of plants that, in general, occur together on similar site conditions.
Population viability	Probability that a population will persist for a specified period of time across its range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.
Present Net Value (PNV)	The difference between the discounted value (benefits) of all outputs to which monetary values or established market prices are assigned and the total discounted costs of managing the planning area.
Preservation	A technique of conservation which maintains the resource in or on the ground in perpetuity.
Primary succession	Vegetation development initiated on newly formed soils or upon surfaces exposed for the first time (as by landslides or retreating glaciers) which have, as a consequence, never borne vegetation before. Any succession beginning on a bare area not previously occupied by plants or animals.
Process Group	A combination of similar channel types based on major differences in landform, gradient and channel shapes. (A full description of process groups is located in Appendix D of the Forest Plan.)
Productive old growth	Old-growth forest capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood fiber per acre per year, or having greater than 8,000 board feet per acre.
Public issue	A subject or question of widespread public interest relating to management of the National Forest System.
Public participation	Meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, tours, written comments, responses to survey questionnaires, and similar activities designed and held to obtain comments from the public about Forest Service planning.

R

Reconstruction	Road or trail construction activities which take place on an existing road or trail and raises the standard of the road or trail. This can include relocation of the facility in a completely new location.
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7 Glossary

Recreation capacity

The number of people that can take advantage of the supply of a recreation opportunity during an established use period without substantially diminishing the quality of the recreation experience or the resources.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

A system for planning and managing recreation resources that categorizes recreation opportunities into six classes. Each class is defined in terms of the degree to which it satisfies certain recreation experience needs based on the extent to which the natural environment has been modified, the type of facilities provided, the degree of outdoor skills needed to enjoy the area and the relative density of recreation use. The seven classes are:

Primitive. An unmodified environment generally greater than 5,000 acres in size and located generally at least 3 miles from all roads and other motorized travel routes. A very low interaction between users (generally less than 3 group encounters per day) results in a very high probability of experiencing solitude, freedom, closeness to nature, tranquillity, self-reliance, challenge, and risk. Evidence of other users is low. Restrictions and controls are not evident after entering the land unit. Motorized use is rare.

Semi-Primitive Non-motorized. A natural or natural-appearing environment generally greater than 2,500 acres in size and generally located at least 1/2 mile (greater or less depending on terrain and vegetation, but no less than 1/4 mile) but not further than 3 miles from all roads and other motorized travel routes. Concentration of users is low (generally less than 10 group encounters per day), but there is often evidence of other users. There is a high probability of experiencing solitude, freedom, closeness of nature, tranquillity, self-reliance, challenge, and risk. There is a minimum of subtle on-site controls. No roads are present in the area.

Semi-Primitive Motorized. A natural or natural-appearing environment generally greater than 2,500 acres in size and generally located within 1/2 mile of primitive roads and other motorized travel routes used by motor vehicles; but not closer than 1/2 mile (greater or less depending on terrain and vegetation, but no less than 1/4 mile) from better-than-primitive roads and other motored travel routes. Concentration of users is low (generally less than 10 group encounters per day), but here is often evidence of other users. There is a moderate probability of experiencing solitude, closeness to nature, and tranquillity along with a high degree of self-reliance, challenge, and risk in using motorized equipment. Local roads may be present, or along saltwater shorelines there may be extensive boat traffic.

Roaded Natural. Resource modification and utilization are evident, in a predominantly naturally-appearing environment generally occurring within 1/2 mile (greater or less depending on terrain and vegetation, but no less than 1/4 mile) from better-than-primitive roads and other motorized travel routes. Interactions between users may be moderate to high (generally less than 20 group encounters per day), with evidence of other users prevalent. There is an opportunity to affiliate with other users in developed sites but with some chance for privacy. Self-reliance on outdoor skills is only of moderate importance with little opportunity for challenge and risk. Motorized use is allowed.

Roaded Modified. Vegetative and landform alterations typically dominate the landscape. There is little on-site control of users except for gated roads. There is moderate evidence of other users on roads (generally less than 20 group encounters per day), and little evidence of others or interactions at campsites.

There is opportunity to get away from others but with easy access. Some self-reliance is required in building campsites and use of motorized equipment. A feeling of independence and freedom exists with little challenge and risk. Recreation users will likely encounter timber management activities.

Rural. The natural environment is substantially modified by land use activities. Opportunity to observe and affiliate with other users is important as is convenience of facilities. There is little opportunity for challenge and risk and self-reliance on outdoor skills is of little importance. Recreation facilities designed for group use are compatible. Users may have more than 20 group encounters per day.

Urban. Urbanized environment with dominant structures, traffic lights and paved streets. May have natural appearing backdrop. Recreation places may be city parks and large resorts. Opportunity to observe and affiliate with other users is very important as is convenience of facilities and recreation opportunities. Interaction between large numbers of users is high. Outdoor skills, risk, and challenge are unimportant except for competitive sports. Intensive on-site controls are numerous.

Recreation places	Identified geographical areas having one or more physical characteristics that are particularly attractive to people engaging in recreation activities. They may be beaches, streamside or roadside areas, trail corridors, hunting areas of the immediate area surrounding a lake, cabin site, or campground.
Recreation Visitor Day (RVD)	A measure of recreation use of an area. One recreation visitor day consists of 12 hours of recreation use of a site or area. Recreation visitor days are used to measure recreation production or output capacity.
Reforestation	The natural or artificial restocking of an area usually to produce timber and other wood products, but also to protect watersheds, prevent soil erosion, and improve wildlife, recreation and other natural resources. Natural reforestation includes site preparation to reduce competing vegetation and provide a mineral seed bed for seed provided by seed trees. Artificial reforestation is the planting of seedlings, cuttings or seeds by hand or mechanical means and may include site preparation.
Research Natural Area (RNA)	An area in as near a natural condition as possible, which exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, soil, geologic, and aquatic features. The area is set aside to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes; commercial and most public uses are not allowed.
Reserve	A general term for an area of land recognized for, and managed to preserve or maintain, specific natural features. Wilderness is one common example. In the context of wildlife or fish habitat management, or biological diversity, an area set aside for the maintenance and perpetuation of its habitat or ecosystem features. (See also Old-growth habitat reserve and Non-development LUDs.)
Resident fish	Fish that are not migratory and complete their entire life cycle in fresh water.
Resource values	The tangible and intangible worth of forest resources.
Responsible official	The Forest Service employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

7 Glossary

Right-of-Way	An easement, license, or permit to pass through another person's land. It does not grant an estate of any kind, only the right to use.
Riparian area	The area including a stream channel, lake or estuary bed, the water itself, and the plants that grow in the water and on the land next to the water.
Riparian corridor	The floodplain and associated riparian soils, vegetation, and wetlands.
Riparian ecosystem	Land next to water where plants that are dependent on a perpetual source of water occur.
Riparian management area	Land areas delineated in the Forest Plan to provide for the management of riparian resources. Specific standards and guidelines, by stream process group, are associated with riparian management areas. Riparian management areas may be modified by watershed analysis.
Riverine wetland	A category in wetland classification which includes all wetlands and deepwater habitats contained within a channel, with two exceptions: (1) wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and (2) habitats with water containing ocean-derived salts in excess of 0.5 percent.
RNA	See Research Natural Area.
Road	A motor vehicle travelway over 50 inches wide, except those designated and managed as a trail. A road may be classified, unclassified, or temporary.
Road analysis	An integrated ecological, social, and economic science-based approach to transportation planning that addresses existing and future road management options.
Road-based recreation	Activities that are normally associated with classified roads and are consistent with the settings and experiences identified with Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM), Roaded Natural (RN), Rural (R), and Urban (U) classes of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum. Examples of these activities include car camping and picnicking, gathering berries and firewood, driving for pleasure, wildlife viewing, and OHV use.
Road density	The number of road miles per square mile of land area.
Road obliteration	A form of road decommissioning that re-contours and restores natural slopes.
Roadless areas	For the purposes of this SEIS, a generic term that includes inventoried roadless area and unroaded areas.
ROS	See Recreation Opportunity Spectrum.

S

Saleable minerals	Include common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, cinders, and clay. In general, these minerals are of wide-spread occurrence and are of relatively low unit value. They are generally used for construction materials and for road building purposes.
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Salvage harvest	Removal of dead or dying trees resulting from insect and disease epidemics or wildfire.
Sawlogs (Sawtimber)	That portion of a tree that is suitable in size and quality for the production of dimension lumber, collectively known as sawtimber.
Scoping	Determination of the significant issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement.
Scrub-shrub wetland	Wetlands dominated by woody vegetation less than 20 feet tall. The species include true shrubs, young trees, and trees or shrubs that are small or stunted because of environmental conditions. In Southeast Alaska this includes forested lands where trees are stunted because of poor soil drainage.
Second growth	Forest growth that has regenerated naturally or has been planted after some drastic interference (e.g., clearcut harvest, serious fire, or insect attack) with the previous forest growth.
Secondary succession	The process of re-establishing vegetation after normal succession is disrupted by fire, cultivation, lumbering, windthrow, or any similar disturbance.
Seed tree	Small number of seed-bearing trees left singly or in small groups after timber harvest to provide seed for regeneration of the site.
Selection cutting	A silvicultural system used to create or maintain uneven-aged stands, usually by the periodic removal of groups of trees or individual trees. It is undertaken to provide periodic harvests while maintaining full residual stand growth rates. It attempts to develop a balanced uneven-aged stand structure, including the encouragement of regeneration by providing the cultural measures needed for tree growth and seedling establishment. The selection system refers to the programs used to create or maintain the stand, while the selection method refers to the way in which the stand is regenerated. The cutting usually involves a mixture of regeneration and improvement cuts. Note that selection cutting is not the same thing as selective cutting (logging). See also Selective cutting.
Selective cutting	<p>A system in which groups of trees or individual trees are removed periodically from the forest based on economic criteria aimed at maximizing logging revenues rather than the need to ensure satisfactory regeneration or to maintain stand growth rates and quality of timber production.</p> <p>The term is often used synonymously with selection cutting, but this is seldom correct, since the management goals of the two systems differ. Selective cutting provides periodic revenues from the forest but is not specifically designed to improve the growing conditions of the trees remaining.</p> <p>The practice of selective cutting has historically resulted in the selection of all the biggest and best trees for cutting, leaving behind a silvicultural slum of damaged trees and degraded ecosystem functions. See also High grade; Selection cutting.</p>
Sense of place	The aesthetic, nostalgic, or spiritual effects of physical locations on humans based on personal, use-oriented, or attachment-oriented relationships between individuals and those locations. The meaning, values, and feelings that people associate with physical locations because of their experiences there.

7 Glossary

Sensitive species	Plant or animal species which are susceptible or vulnerable to habitat alterations or management activities resulting in a viability concern for the species long-term persistence. Sensitive species may be those species under consideration for official listing as endangered or threatened species, that are on an official state list, or that are recognized by the Regional Forester as needing special consideration to assure viable populations and to prevent their being placed on Federal or state lists.
Sensitive travel route	A road system or marine water way which receives a moderate to high degree of use by the public, both Alaskan residents and tourists.
Sensitivity level	A measure of the people's concern for the scenic quality of the National Forest applied to travel routes, use areas, and water bodies.
Shelterwood harvest	The removal of a stand of trees through a series of cuttings designed to establish a new crop with seed and protection provided by a portion of the stand.
SHPO	See State Historic Preservation Officer.
Silvicultural system	A management process whereby forests are tended, harvested, and replaced resulting in a forest of distinctive form. Systems are classified according to the method of carrying out the process. (See single-tree selection, shelterwood cutting, group selection, even-aged management, uneven-aged management, two-aged management, and clearcut.)
Silviculture	The science and art of growing and tending crops of forest trees to attain the desired level of marketable and unmarketable products.
Single-tree selection	A cutting method to develop and maintain uneven-aged stands by removal of selected trees from specified age classes over the entire stand area in order to meet a predetermined goal of age distribution and species in the remaining stand.
Site index	A measure of the relative productive capacity of an area for growing wood. Measurement of site index is based on height of the dominant trees in a stand at a given age.
Slash	Debris left after logging, pruning, thinning, or brush cutting, and large accumulations of debris resulting from windstorms. It includes logs, bark, branches, and stumps.
Smolt	A young silvery-colored salmon or trout which moves from freshwater streams to saltwater.
Special Interest Areas	A designation for areas possessing unique or unusual scenic, historic, prehistoric, geodesic scientific, or other characteristics.
Special Use Authorization	A permit, term permit, temporary permit, lease, or easement that allows occupancy or use of, or rights and privileges on National Forest System lands.
Special Use Permit	Permits and granting of easements (excluding road permits and highway easements) authorizing the occupancy and use of land.
Stand	A group of trees occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in composition, age arrangement, and condition as to be distinguishable from the trees in adjoining areas.

Standard	A course of action or level of attainment required by the forest plan to promote achievement of goals and objectives.
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	The official appointed or designated pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, to administer the State Historic Preservation Program.
State selection	(from National Forest System lands) Application by Alaska Department of Natural Resources to the USDI Bureau of Land Management for conveyance of a portion of the 400,000-acre State entitlement from vacant and unappropriated National Forest System lands in Alaska, under authority of Section 6(a) of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959 (Public Law 85-508, 72 Stat. 340). For lands to be conveyed, State selections must be approved by the USDA Forest Service, Regional Forester, Alaska Region under criteria of the Statehood Act. Until approved by the Regional Forester, the State application is not considered a valid selection. The State can select up to 25 percent in excess of its remaining entitlement.
Stream bank	The portion of the channel cross section that restricts lateral movement of water at normal water levels. The bank often has a gradient steeper than 45 degrees and exhibits a distinct break in slope from the stream bottom. An obvious change in substrate may be a reliable delineation of the bank.
Stream class	<p>A means to categorize stream channels based on their fish production values. There are four stream classes on the Tongass National Forest. They are:</p> <p>Class I. Streams and lakes with anadromous or adfluvial fish habitat; or high quality resident fish waters listed in Appendix 68.1, Region 10 Aquatic Habitat Management Handbook (FSH 2609.24), June 1986; or habitat above fish migration barriers known to be reasonable enhancement opportunities for anadromous fish.</p> <p>Class II. Streams and lakes with resident fish populations and generally steep (6-15 percent) gradient (can also include streams from 0-5 percent gradient) where no anadromous fish occur, and otherwise not meeting Class I criteria. These populations have limited fisheries values and generally occur upstream of migration barriers or have other habitat features that preclude anadromous fish use.</p> <p>Class III. Perennial and intermittent streams with no fish populations but which have sufficient flow or transport sufficient sediment and debris to have an immediate influence on downstream water quality or fish habitat capability. These streams generally have bankfull widths greater than 5 feet and are highly incised into the surrounding hillslope.</p> <p>Class IV. Intermittent, ephemeral, and small perennial channels with insufficient flow or sediment transport capabilities to have an immediate influence on downstream water quality or fish habitat capability. These streams generally are shallowly incised into the surrounding hillslope.</p> <p>Non-streams. Rills and other watercourses, generally intermittent and less than 1 foot in bankfull width, little or no incisement into the surrounding hillslope, and with little or no evidence of scour.</p>

7 Glossary

Subsistence	Section 803 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act defines subsistence use as, “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild renewable resources for direct, personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.”
Suitable forest land	Forest land for which technology is available that will ensure timber production without irreversible resource damage to soils, productivity, or watershed conditions, and for which there is reasonable assurance that such lands can be adequately restocked, and for which there is management direction that indicated that timber production is an appropriate use of that area.
Surface rights	All rights in the surface of the land except oil, gas, and other mineral or subsurface rights.
Sustained yield	The amount of renewable resources that can be produced continuously at a given intensity of management.

T

Temporary facility	Any structure or other human-made improvement which can be readily and completely dismantled and removed from the site when the authorized use terminates.
Temporary roads	Roads authorized by contract, permit, lease, or emergency operation, not intended to be a part of the forest transportation system and not necessary for long-term resource management.
Tentatively suitable forest land	Forest land that is producing or is capable of producing crops of industrial wood and: (a) has not been withdrawn by Congress, the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service; (b) existing technology and knowledge is available to ensure timber production without irreversible damage to soils productivity, or watershed conditions; (c) existing technology and knowledge, as reflected in current research and experience, provides reasonable assurance that it is possible to restock adequately within 5 years after final harvest; and (d) adequate information is available to project responses to timber management activities.
Terrestrial ecosystems	Plant communities that are not dependent on a perpetual source of water to grow.
Thinning	<p>The practice of removing some of the trees in a stand so that the remaining trees will grow faster due to reduced competition for nutrients, water, and sunlight. Thinning may also be done to change the characteristics of a stand for wildlife or other purposes. Thinning may be done at two different stages:</p> <p>Precommercial. Removing trees that are too small to make a merchantable product to improve tree spacing and promote more rapid growth.</p> <p>Commercial. Removing trees that have reached sufficient size to be manufactured into a product to improve tree spacing and promote more rapid growth.</p>

Threatened species	A plant or animal species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened species are identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.
Threshold	The point or level of activity beyond which an undesirable set of responses begins to take place within a given resource system.
Tiering	Elimination of repetitive discussions of the same issue by incorporating by reference the general discussion in an environmental impact statement of broader scope. For example, a project environmental assessment could be tiered to the Forest Plan EIS.
Timber	A general term for the major woody growth of vegetation in a forest area.
Timber classification	<p>Forested land is classified under each of the land management alternatives according to how it relates to the management of the timber resource. The following are definitions of timber classifications used for this purpose.</p> <p>Nonforest. Land that has never supported forests and land formerly forested where use for timber production is precluded by development or other uses.</p> <p>Forest. Land at least 10-percent stocked (based on crown cover) by forest trees of any size, or formerly having had such tree cover and not currently developed for nonforest use.</p> <p>Suitable. Land to be managed for timber production on a regulated basis.</p> <p>Unsuitable. Forest land withdrawn from timber utilization by statute or administrative regulation (for example, wilderness), or identified as inappropriate for timber production in the Forest planning process.</p> <p>Commercial forest. Forest land tentatively suitable for the production of continuous crops of timber and that has not been withdrawn.</p>
Timberlands	Forest lands producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood. Areas qualifying as timberland can produce more than 20 cubic feet per acre per year of industrial wood at culmination of mean annual increment.
Timber production	The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of trees for industrial or consumer use.
Tongass Resource Use Cooperative Survey(TRUCS)	A study done to gather information on subsistence uses of the Forest.
Trail	A pathway for travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicles.
Transportation and Utility System (TUS)	<p>Significant corridors, with their associated sites used to accommodate public transportation and energy transmission needs.</p> <p>Avoidance Area. An area where the establishment and use of transportation or utility corridors and sites is not desirable given the land use designation emphasis. A search for “windows” should be exhausted before TUS facilities are considered in avoidance areas. When practical, these areas should be avoided through site-specific analysis during project-level planning. Avoidance areas often include Congressionally and administratively designated areas. Although special environmental and procedural considerations may be required for these areas, these special designations do not preclude consideration and use as a TUS. Avoidance areas are designated through the allocation of lands to management prescriptions specifically identified as TUS avoidance areas in their standards and guidelines.</p>

7 Glossary

Exclusion Area. A large area (large enough to cause significant barriers) which legislatively precludes transportation and utility systems. Due to special authorities provided in Title XI, ANILCA, there will be no exclusion areas on the Tongass.

Window. An area potentially available for the location of transportation or utility corridors and sites.

TRUCS See Tongass Resource Use Cooperative Survey.

TTRA Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990.

TUS See Transportation and Utility System.

Two-aged management A silvicultural method in which the majority of the trees in a harvest unit are cut in one entry, and the rest are left as residual trees, either singly or in patches. The residual trees remain unharvested to provide structural diversity and older-aged trees within the second-growth stand. See "Two-aged System" in the Timber Forest-wide Standards & Guidelines for guidance.

U

Unclassified roads Roads on National Forest System lands that are not needed for, and not managed as part of, the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, off-road vehicle tracks which have not been designated and managed as a trail, and those roads no longer under permit or authorization.

Uneven-aged management The application of actions needed to maintain high-forest cover, recurring regeneration of desirable species, and the orderly growth and development of trees through a range of diameter or age classes. Cutting methods that develop and maintain uneven-aged stands are single-tree and group selection.

Unroaded area Any area, without the presence of a classified road, of a size and configuration sufficient to protect the inherent characteristics associated with its roadless condition. Unroaded areas do not overlap with inventoried roadless areas.

Unsuitable lands Forest land not managed for timber production because: 1) Congress, the Secretary, or the Chief has withdrawn it; 2) it is not producing or capable of producing industrial wood; 3) technology is not available to prevent irreversible damage to soils productivity, or watershed conditions; 4) there is no reasonable assurance, based on existing technology and knowledge, that it is possible to restock lands within 5 years after final harvest; 5) there is, at present, a lack of adequate information about responses to timber management activities; or 6) timber management is inconsistent with or not cost efficient in meeting the management requirements and multiple-use objectives specified in the Forest Plan.

V

VAC See Visual Absorption Capability.

Value Comparison Unit (VCU)	First developed for the 1979 Tongass Land Management Plan as distinct geographic areas that generally encompass a drainage basin containing one or more large stream systems. Boundaries usually follow easily recognizable watershed divides. There are 926 units established to provide a common set of areas for which resource inventories could be conducted and resource value interpretations made.
VCU	See Value Comparison Unit.
Viable population	For forest planning purposes a fish or wildlife population which has the estimated number and distribution of reproductive individuals to insure its continued existence is well distributed in the National Forest.
Viewshed	An expansive landscape or panoramic vista seen from a road, marine water way or specific viewpoint.
Visual Absorption Capability (VAC)	The capability of the landscape to visually absorb management activities. Landscapes are rated with high, moderate or low abilities to absorb management activities. These ratings reflect the degree of landscape variety in an area, viewing distance and topographic characteristics. As an example, steep, evenly sloped landscapes viewed in the foreground to middleground are typically given a low VAC rating.
Visual Quality Objective (VQO)	<p>A desired level of scenic quality and diversity of natural features based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area. Refers to the degree of acceptable alterations of the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Inventory VQO. Derived through application of the USDA Visual Management System. Uses three elements to determine the inventory: Sensitivity levels, distance zones and landscape variety class. Provides a benchmark and illustrates the optimum objective based on current use patterns and sensitivity.</p> <p>Adopted VQO. The VQO to be achieved as a result of management direction identified in the approved forest plan. Adopted VQO's represent the visual resource objective for the Forest Land Management Plan period, normally 10 years. (FSH 2309.22, R-10 Landscape Management Handbook.)</p> <p>Preservation. Management activities are generally not allowed in this setting. The landscape is allowed to evolve naturally.</p> <p>Retention. Management activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.</p> <p>Partial Retention. Management activities may be evident, but are subordinate to the characteristic landscape.</p> <p>Modification. Management activities may dominate the characteristic landscape but will, at the same time, use naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as middleground (1/4 to 5 miles from viewer).</p> <p>Maximum Modification. Management activities may dominate the characteristic landscape, but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.</p>
V-Notches	A deeply incised valley along some waterways that would look like a "V" from a frontal view. These abrupt changes in terrain features are often used as harvest unit or yarding boundaries.
Volume strata	Divisions of old-growth timber volume derived from the interpreted timber type data layer (TIMTYP) and the common land unit data layer (CLU). Three volume strata (low, medium, and high) are recognized in the Forest Plan for each Administrative Area.
VQO	See Visual Quality Objective.

7 Glossary

W

- WAA** See Wildlife Analysis Area.
- Watershed** The area that contributes water to a drainage or stream. Portion of the forest in which all surface water drains to a common point. Watersheds can range from tens of acres that drain a single small intermittent stream to many thousands of acres for a stream that drains hundreds of connected intermittent and perennial streams.
Third order watershed. A watershed where there are (generally) two major branches to the mainstream of the watershed. (Also see Stream order.)
Fourth order watershed. A watershed which contains at least two third order watersheds.
- Wetlands** Areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient, under normal circumstances, to support a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include peatlands, muskegs, marshes, bogs, sloughs, potholes, river overflows, mud flats, wet meadows, seeps, and springs.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers** Rivers or sections of rivers designated by congressional actions under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Wild and scenic rivers may be classified and administered under one or more of the following categories:
Wild river areas. Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
Scenic river areas. Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
Recreational river areas. Rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.
- Wilderness** Areas designated by congressional action under the 1964 Wilderness Act or subsequent Acts. Wilderness is defined as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation. Wilderness areas are protected and managed to preserve their natural conditions, which generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable; have outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and confined type of recreation; include at least 5,000 acres or are of sufficient size to make practical their preservation, enjoyment, and use in an unimpaired condition; and may contain features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value as well as ecologic and geologic interest. On the Tongass National Forest, Wilderness has been designated by ANILCA and TTRA.
- Wildlife Analysis Area** A division of land used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for wildlife analysis (WAA).

Windthrow	The act of trees being uprooted by the wind. In Southeast Alaska, Sitka spruce and hemlock trees are shallow rooted and susceptible to windthrow. There are generally three types of windthrow - endemic where individual trees are blown over; catastrophic where a major windstorm can destroy hundreds of acres; and management related, where the clearing of trees in an area make the adjacent standing trees vulnerable to windthrow.
Winter range	An area, usually at lower elevation, used by big game during the winter months; usually smaller and better-defined than summer ranges.
Withdrawal	The withholding of an area of Federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws in order to maintain other public values in the area.