

## Glossary

**Abiotic**

Refers to nonliving things.

**Associate Director, Land Trust**

A person who works to protect land, plants, and animals for the future.

**Bark**

The outermost layer on a tree's trunk that protects the tree from injury.

**Belief**

Something that a person thinks to be true to the best of his or her knowledge.

**Biltmore Stick**

A graduated rule used to estimate the diameter of standing trees.

**Biodiversity**

The variety and complexity of all life on Earth.

**Biome**

A regional ecosystem characterized by distinct seasonal climatic differences, vegetation, and animals.

**Biosphere**

The air, land, and water on Earth's surface that contain living organisms.

**Biotic**

Refers to living things.

**Board Foot**

Unit used to measure the volume of wood; one board foot equals one foot by one foot by one inch.

**Cambium**

The growing part of the trunk of a tree. This thin layer between the xylem and phloem produces cells that become new xylem and phloem.

**Chain**

Unit used to measure distance; one chain equals 66 feet.

**Clearcut**

A management technique in which all the trees in an area are cut at the same time.

**Co-dominant**

Trees with crowns at the same height as other trees around them. They receive full light from above but little from the sides.

**Community**

A group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a given area.

**Competition**

The struggle that exists among plants or trees to acquire resources from a limited pool.

**Condensation**

The process of vapor turning into liquid.

**Coniferous**

A tree that bears cones and has needles.

**Consumer**

An organism that can't produce its own food energy and must get it by eating producers or other consumers.

**Crown**

The part of a tree with live branches and leaves.

**Cultural Value**

The worth of a forest in terms of the way a person was raised to believe in it.

**DBH (Diameter at Breast Height)**

Foresters measure diameter at breast height or 4.5 feet from the ground.

**Deciduous**

A tree that sheds all of its leaves annually.

**Decline**

The part of a tree's life when it becomes less healthy and does not recover.

**Decomposer**

An organism that gets its food energy from dead parts of other organisms.

**Disturbance**

An event that disrupts the succession of a forest (e.g., fire, harvest, wind, flood).

**Dominant**

Trees with crowns extending above other trees around them. They receive full light from above and partly from the sides.

**Ecological Value**

The worth of a forest in terms of what it contributes to an ecosystem as a whole.

**Ecologist**

A person who studies how forest parts work together and how humans fit in.

**Economic Value**

The worth of a forest in financial terms.

**Ecosystem**

An area that contains organisms (e.g., plants, animals, bacteria) interacting with one another and their nonliving environment. Ecosystems can be of any size (e.g., forest, meadow, log).

**Educational Value**

The worth of a forest in terms of its benefits for teaching and learning.

**Energy**

The ability to do work (e.g., grow, reproduce, move).

**Evaporation**

The process of a liquid turning into vapor.

**Executive Director, Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association**

A person who assists members of WWOA to help them meet their goals.

**Food Chain**

A series of organisms in which one eats or decomposes another and the transfer of food energy occurs.

**Food Web**

A group of interconnected food chains.

**Forb Layer**

Layer of the understory containing non-woody plants.

**Forest Management**

The use of techniques (e.g., planting, harvesting) to promote, conserve, or alter forests to meet desired outcomes.

**Forest Pathologist**

A person who diagnoses and determines treatment for forest pests such as insects, disease, and weather damage.

**Germination**

The beginning growth of a seed when roots and a stem sprout.

**Heartwood**

The central core of a tree made of dense, dead wood. The heartwood provides strength for the tree.

**Individual**

One living thing.

**Intermediate**

Trees with crowns shorter than other trees around them. Their crowns extend into lower parts of the co-dominant and dominant trees' crowns. They receive little direct light from above and none from the sides.

**Knowledge**

The information or facts someone has about something.

**Landscaper**

A person who designs landscapes. This includes planning what trees and shrubs to plant and where to plant them.

**Litter Layer**

Surface layer of the forest floor composed of leaves, twigs, needles, etc., with minimal decomposition.

**Log**

Unit of measurement; one log equals 16 feet.

**Maturity**

The part of a tree's life when noticeable growth slows and it can begin reproduction.

**Merchantable**

Being the appropriate size and condition to be sold.

**Merritt Hypsometer**

A graduated rule used to measure the height of standing trees.

**Multiple Use**

A type of forest management that promotes at least two types of forest use (e.g., for recreation and wildlife habitat).

**Natural Regeneration**

Allowing trees to grow on a site from seeds, sprouts, or suckering.

**Nursery Manager**

A person who is in charge of planting many tree seeds and helping them grow.

**Overstory**

The uppermost trees in a forest.

**Overtopped**

Trees with crowns entirely below other trees around them. They receive no direct light from above or the sides.

**Pallet**

A small, low wooden platform items are stacked on, usually for packing or shipping.

**Park Superintendent**

A person who manages a park and people who use it.

**Phloem**

The layer in the trunk of a tree that carries sugars (food energy) created during photosynthesis from the leaves to the rest of the tree. Phloem is also called inner bark.

**Photosynthesis**

The process a plant uses to combine sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to produce oxygen and sugar.

**Plat Map**

A map of a township that shows property boundaries.

**Population**

A group of individuals of the same species in an area.

**Precipitation**

All forms of moisture that fall from the sky, including rain, snow, hail, etc.

**Prescribed Burn**

A fire planned and executed to achieve management goals.

**Primary Consumer**

A consumer that gets its energy from producers (plants). These are often called herbivores.

**Producer**

An organism that produces its own food energy by using sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide through the process of photosynthesis. Plants are producers.

**Pulp**

Fibrous material prepared from wood that is used to make paper.

**Recreational Value**

The worth of a forest in terms of its use for leisure.

**Reforestation**

Planting or use of natural regeneration to grow forests on land that had forests removed.

**Renewable Resource**

A resource that has the ability to regenerate, grow back, or produce more.

**Reproduction**

The part of a tree's life when it produces seeds.

**Runoff**

Water that flows on the surface of the ground.

**Secondary Consumer**

A consumer that gets its energy from other consumers. These are often called carnivores.

**Section**

An area of land that is one mile by one mile and consists of 640 acres.

**Seed-tree**

A management technique in which most of the trees in an area are harvested, but a few trees are left to provide a seed source.

**Selection Cut**

A management technique in which specific trees in an area are chosen and cut.

**Shade-intolerant**

Describes a plant's ability to compete for survival under direct sunlight conditions.

**Shade-tolerant**

Describes a plant's ability to compete for survival under shaded conditions.

**Shelterwood Cut**

A management technique in which some trees are left during harvest to encourage trees that need partial shade to regenerate.

**Shrub Layer**

Layer of the understory containing woody plants with multiple stems.

**Steward**

A person who takes responsibility to make decisions and take actions today that will allow resources to be maintained in a healthy manner.

**Succession**

The gradual changing of an area from one community to another.

**Sustain**

To nourish, keep up, or maintain.

**Sustainable Management**

Maintenance of forests to meet current and future ecological, economic, and social needs.

**Thinning**

A management technique in which some trees are removed to make room for other trees to grow.

**Township**

An area of land that is six miles by six miles and contains 36 sections.

**Transpiration**

The evaporation of water from plants.

**Understory**

Forest vegetation present under the overstory, which can include trees, shrubs, and forbs.

**Value**

The worth someone places on something.

**Wildlife Biologist**

A person who researches wildlife and their habitats and takes action to improve those habitats.

**Xylem**

The layer in the trunk of a tree that carries water and nutrients absorbed from the soil by the roots to the leaves. It is located between the heartwood and the cambium layer.

NOTES

Lined area for notes with a large green maple leaf watermark.