

## Glossary

### **Aesthetic Value**

The worth of a forest in terms of its natural beauty.

### **All-aged Management**

A technique used to maintain a stand with trees of all ages from seedlings to mature.

### **Alternate Branching**

A branching pattern where side branches and leaves do not grow directly across from each other.

### **Axillary Bud**

A bud that grows just above the leaf petiole. It is capable of developing into a flower cluster or branch shoots.

### **Belief**

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

### **Best Management Practice (BMP)**

A combination of practices aimed at protecting waterways.

### **Biodiversity**

The variety and complexity of all life on earth, including genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity.

### **Biome**

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

### **Biotechnology**

The use of living organisms, or parts of living organisms, to provide new methods of production, alter disease resistance, make new products, and find new ways to improve our quality of life.

### **Broadleaf**

A tree that has broad leaves rather than needles.

### **Bundle**

Group of conifer needles held together at the base by a small papery wrap called a fascicle.

### **Clearcut**

An area where all the trees have been harvested at the same time.

### **Climatic Zones**

Regions of different temperature and moisture conditions.

### **Community**

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

### **Compound Leaf**

A type of leaf that has many smaller leaflets that attach to its petiole, which is attached to a twig.

### **Conifer**

A tree that bears cones and has needles.

### **Coniferous Forest**

Type of forest containing cone-bearing trees.

### **Cultural Value**

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

### **Deciduous Forest**

Type of forest containing trees that shed their leaves annually.

### **Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)**

The diameter of a tree 4.5 feet above ground level.

### **Diameter Tape**

A type of measuring tape specially graduated so that diameter can be read when the tape is wrapped around a tree (circumference) without extra calculations.

### **Director (Cofrin Center for Biodiversity)**

A person who studies plants and animals in order to gather information that will be used to help manage resources.

### **Disease**

An abnormal condition in a plant that affects the health, longevity, or economic value.

**Duff Layer**

Layer of the forest containing partially decomposed organic material. Found beneath the litter layer on the forest floor.

**Ecological Value**

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

**Economic Value**

The worth of a forest in financial terms (dollars and cents).

**Ecosystem**

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

**Ecosystem Diversity**

Variety of biologic communities or ecosystems in a given area over time.

**Ecotone**

The transition zone between two adjacent ecological systems.

**Educational Value**

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

**Endangered Species**

A species that is in danger of becoming extinct.

**Entire**

A type of leaf margin that is smooth and has no wavy or pointed edges.

**Even-aged Management**

A technique used to maintain a stand with trees of uniform age and size.

**Evenness**

A comparison of the number of individuals of each species in a forest.

**Exotic Species**

A species from a specific geographic region that has been introduced into an area outside of that region.

**Forb Layer**

Layer of understory containing non-woody plants.

**Forest Functions**

Processes in a forest ecosystem. These include nutrient cycling, photosynthesis, providing animal habitat, etc.

**Forest Management**

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

**Forest Services**

The benefits that a forest provides for humans. These include recreation, products, aesthetics, etc.

**Forester**

A person who plans and makes decisions about forests to meet goals and support healthy ecosystems.

**Forestry**

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

**Fragmentation**

The process of dividing forest into smaller patches of forest and non-forest land.

**Functional Diversity**

The variety of functions in a forest. Functions include nutrient cycling, photosynthesis, providing animal habitat, etc.

**Genetic Diversity**

Genetic variation within a population or species.

**GIS Specialist/Forester**

A person who uses maps and computers to manage forests.

**Glaciation**

To be covered by large masses of slow-moving ice formed by accumulated snow.

**Horizontal Structure**

The distribution of forest layers across the landscape.

***Invasive Species***

A species that enters an area and causes harm by out-competing species that are already there.

***Knowledge***

Information or facts someone has about something.

***Leaf Base***

The lower edge of a leaf.

***Leaflet***

A small leaf that is part of a compound leaf.

***Leaf Margin***

The outer edge of a leaf.

***Leaf Scar***

The mark left behind on a twig when a leaf falls from a tree.

***Limiting Factor***

A factor that limits the growth, abundance, or distribution of a population of organisms in an ecosystem.

***Litter Layer***

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

***Lobe***

A projection that extends outward from the center of the leaf.

***Microhabitat***

A specific combination of habitat elements in an area that are needed by a particular organism.

***Multiple Use***

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

***Opposite Branching***

A branching pattern where side branches and leaves grow directly across the stem from each other.

***Overstory***

The uppermost trees in a forest.

***Parks Operations Manager***

A person who directs daily activities of park employees to maintain parks.

***Petiole***

The stalk that supports a leaf and attaches the leaf to the twig. They can be round, flat, or square.

***Plant Pathologist***

A person who researches plant diseases.

***Plot***

A measured parcel of land. Plots vary in size and shape.

***Precipitation***

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

***Prescribed Fire***

A fire planned and executed to achieve management goals.

***Product Developer***

A person who works with customers to create new wood products.

***Project Director (The Nature Conservancy)***

A person who works for The Nature Conservancy to oversee and plan the protection of natural communities.

***Public Affairs Specialist***

A person who shares material on key issues with others for the USDA Forest Service.

***Recreational Value***

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

***Richness***

A measure of the number of different species in a forest.

***Scaly***

Conifer needles that are flat and overlapping, like fish scales.

***Scat***

A scientific term for animal feces.

**Shrub Layer**

Layer of the understory containing woody plants with multiple stems.

**Simple Leaf**

A type of leaf that has one blade attached to a twig by a petiole.

**Sinus**

The space in between lobes on a leaf.

**Species Diversity**

The variety of species present in a given area.

**Stand**

A group of trees in a given area.

**Steward**

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

**Structural Diversity**

The variety in the physical organization of a forest. It has both vertical and horizontal components.

**Structure**

The horizontal and vertical distribution of layers in a forest, including height, diameter, and species present.

**Sustain**

To nourish, keep up, or maintain.

**Sustainability**

The ability of natural resources to provide ecological, economic, and social benefits for present and future generations.

**Sustainable**

The ability for something to be maintained for use today and in the future.

**Sustainable Management**

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

**Taiga/Boreal Forest**

Type of forest found in the circumpolar regions of the northern hemisphere.

**Temperate Forest**

Type of forest found in regions with an average temperature of  $\pm 50^{\circ}\text{F}$  for two to four months of the year.

**Threatened Species**

A species that is likely to become endangered.

**Timber Stand Improvement (TSI)**

A forestry practice used to improve the composition, structure, condition, health, and growth of a forest stand.

**Toothed**

A type of leaf edge that has small points along it (teeth).

**Topography**

The relative elevations and configuration of features in a landscape.

**Tropical Forest**

A forest that grows in “winterless” tropical climates with high temperatures and generally high annual rainfall.

**Tropical Rainforest**

Type of forest found in regions with high temperature, humidity, and rainfall with an average temperature of  $65^{\circ}\text{F}$  for the coolest month.

**Understory**

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

**Value**

The worth someone places on something.

**Veins**

Distinct lines of tissue that form the framework of a leaf. Used for food and water transport.

**Veneer**

A thin layer of wood created when logs are shaved from the outside into the center.

**Vertical Structure**

The distribution of forest layers from top to bottom.

NOTES

Handwriting practice lines with two large green leaf illustrations.