

GLOSSARY

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – BMPs are practical and economically achievable practices for preventing or reducing nonpoint source pollution. (5)

Biodiversity – The variety and abundance of species, their genetic composition, and the natural communities, ecosystems, and landscapes in which they occur. Biodiversity encompasses the ecological structure, function, and processes that occur in ecosystems to sustain the system as viable entities. (2)

Clearcutting – A silvicultural system in which all merchantable trees are harvested within a specified area in one operation to create an even-aged stand (5).

Committee – Refers to the Property, Forestry, and Recreational Committee of the Polk County Board of Supervisors. The Committee is the supervising authority for the Polk County Forest. (2)

Cover type – An area of land characterized by the predominance of one or more key species which make up a dominant percentage of the area. (2)

Cultural activity – The manipulation of vegetation to meet objectives of controlling stand composition or structure, such as site improvement, forest tree improvement, increased regeneration, increased growth, or measures to control insects and disease. (3)

DNR – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Ecosystem – A spatially explicit, relatively homogeneous unit of the earth that includes all interacting organisms and components of the abiotic environment within its boundaries – *note:* an ecosystem can be of any size, e.g. a log, pond, field, forest, or the earth's biosphere. (3)

Ecosystem management – Management guided by explicit goals, executed by policies, protocols, and practices, and made adaptable by monitoring and research based on the best understanding of ecological interactions and processes necessary to sustain ecosystem composition, structure, and function over the long term. (3)

Forest compartment – A subdivision of a forest property with easily defined boundaries such as rivers, lakes, and roads. Compartments are established for forest management purposes, most notably forest reconnaissance. They may vary in size from a hundred acres to more than a thousand. (2)

Forest fragmentation – The process by which a landscape is broken into small islands of forest within a mosaic of other forms of land use or ownership. (3)

Forest habitat classification system – The habitat type system is a natural classification system for forest communities and the sites on which they develop. It utilizes systematic interpretation of total flora of a site with emphasis on understory species. A habitat type, as a basic classification unit, is characterized by a distinct combination of species (association) that reflects the ecological sum of the environmental factors operating upon that site. All sites that support (or are capable of supporting) a particular plant association, regardless of how physically different they may appear, are considered to be equivalent and represent the same habitat type. (2)

Forest reconnaissance (Recon) – A tool where basic resource information is collected and stored, and systematically and continuously updated. The information is utilized as a tool in the assessment of geographical, structural, and compositional attributes of the land resource. The database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives, and assist in the development and implementation of the management plans. (2)

Geographic information system (GIS) – An organized collection of computer hardware, software, geographic and descriptive data, personnel, knowledge, and procedures designed to efficiently capture, store, update, manipulate, analyze, report, and display the forms of geographically referenced information and descriptive information. (3)

Global Positioning System (GPS) – A system of electronic surveying technology utilizing satellites to determine location on the earth.

Habitat – The place, natural or otherwise, (including climate, food, cover, and water) where an animal, plant, or population naturally or normally lives and develops. (3)

Integrated resource management – The simultaneous consideration of ecological, physical, economic, and social impacts of lands, waters, and resources in developing and implementing multiple-use, sustained-yield management. (3)

Integrated pest management (IPM) – The maintenance of destructive agents, including insects at tolerable levels, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive, or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable. (3)

National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units – The National Hierarchical Framework of Ecological Units (NHFEU) is a hierarchical ecological land classification system. Ecological units are identified and differentiated based on unique combinations of physical and biological characteristics, which may include climate, geology, geomorphology, soils, hydrology, or potential natural vegetation. (8)

Old Growth – The (usually) late successional stage of forest development. (3)

Prescribed burn – To deliberately burn wildland fuels in either their natural or their modified state and under specific environmental conditions, which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and produces the fireline intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives. (3)

RAVE (Reconnaissance ArcView Editor) – A forest stand management application. An ArcView (GIS software) custom extension that allows the user to easily edit forest timber-type areal features (polygons) while at the same time updating tabular records. (1)

Selective harvest – A cutting procedure in which individual trees of all size classes are removed more or less uniformly throughout the stand, to promote growth of remaining trees and to provide space for regeneration. (3)

Shelterwood harvest – A cutting procedure by which a new age class is created. The cutting of most trees, leaving those needed to produce sufficient shade to produce a new age class in a moderated microenvironment. (3)

Silvics – The study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands, with particular reference to environmental factors, as a basis for the practice of silviculture. (3)

Silviculture – The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands to meet the diverse needs and values of landowners and society on a sustainable basis. (3)

Slash – The residue, e.g. treetops and branches, left on the ground after logging or accumulating as a result of storm, fire girdling, or delimiting. (3)

Smart Growth planning – The local comprehensive planning that has been occurring as a result of the legislation enacted in 1999 (s. 66.1001 Wis. Stats.). (6) (7)

Sustainable – The yield of a natural resource that can be produced continually at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable. (4)

Sustainable Forest Management – 1. The practice of meeting the forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar capability of future generations. (3)

GLOSSARY REFERENCES

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