

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°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 faint maple leaf illustrations.