

Aerate

to supply or expose water with air to increase dissolved oxygen and release harmful gases

Afforestation

planting trees in an area that previously was not forested; for example, planting trees in a field coming out of agricultural production

Anadromous

behavioral term for fish that breed in fresh water, but mature in salt water, such as Coho salmon

Annual

when referring to plants, those that complete their life cycle from seed to mature seed-bearing plant in one growing season

Arid

dry, receives little
precipitation

Basal Area

space or area represented by
tree stems at 4.5 feet above
ground

- For example, a basal area of 60 square feet per acre means that of 43,560 square feet of available space (1 acre), tree trunks represent 60 square feet of that space 4.5 feet above ground

Biological Carrying Capacity

the maximum number of individuals of a given species the land can support throughout the year without causing some type of damage

- Usually related to food, cover, water, or space for a particular species, but the term is sometimes applicable to cultural limitations for humans

Broadleaf

a plant with wide blade leaves such as an oak or cottonwood. Seeds are born from flowering parts in contrast to conifers which bear seeds in cones

Browse

n. leaves and ends of twigs of woody species; v. to eat browse

Butte

a hill that rises abruptly from the surroundings; sides are steeply sloped or with cliffs, and the top is nearly flat.

Cacti

plants adapted to dry conditions;
often store water in leaves and
other parts of the plant; usually
have small leaves and thorns

Canopy Cover

the amount of ground
covered by the branches,
leaves and stems of plants;
can specify as herbaceous,
shrub, tree or all canopy
cover; expressed as a
percentage

Carnivore

a meat-eating animal

Catadromous

behavioral term for fish that
breed in salt water, but
mature in fresh water

Coastal Plain

large, nearly level areas of land
near ocean shores

Conifer

usually refers to needleleaf
trees that bear seeds in cones

- examples include pines,
cedars, spruces, firs, hemlock,
and cypress

Corridor

a strip or block of cover that connects otherwise isolated areas for a particular wildlife species

Cover

vegetation and other land features that provide areas for wildlife to hide, sleep, feed, and reproduce

Crepuscular

a behavioral term that describes
primary activity near dawn and
dusk

Cultural Carrying Capacity

the maximum number of
individuals of a given species
people will tolerate

Decadent

declining in health and/or
productivity

Deciduous

plants that lose their leaves
for part of the year, typically
fall and winter

Decomposer

organisms that reduce animal carcasses and waste and dead plant material into nutrients

Decomposition

the natural breakdown and decay of dead plant and animal material

Defecating

elimination of solid body waste by
animal

Detrimental

having harmful effects

Detritus

dead and decaying plant and animal matter, which is an important part of the food chain

Dominant

the plant or animal species that is the most common in an area

Drought

lack of normal precipitation for an extended period of time; long period with little or no rain

Ecosystem

the plant community along with the animal community together with soil, air, water, and sunlight

Ecotone

where two vegetation types or seral stages meet and blend gradually with characteristics of both communities represented

Edge

where two vegetation types or seral stages meet

Endangered Species

a species in danger of becoming
extinct

Environment

the surroundings that affect
the growth and development
of an organism including
other plants and animals,
climate, and location

Ephemeral

temporary; often seasonal; not
long lasting

Evergreen

plants that do not lose all their
leaves at one time, including
some conifers, but also many
broadleaf trees and shrubs
such as live oak and
American holly

Excavate

to make a cavity or hole

Exclusion

keeping something out of an
area

Extant

still in existence

Extinct

no longer in existence

Extirpated

locally or regionally extinct

Fertile

usually referring to soil high in
available nutrients

Fingerling

a small fish, especially up to one
year of age

Fluctuate

to vary, or rise and fall
irregularly

Food Chain

step by step passage of energy
and nutrients through an
ecosystem

- For example, clover → deer →
mountain lion

Food Web

a complex network of food
chains

Forage

n. refers to the vegetation eaten
by animals; v. to search for food

Forb

broad-leaved herbaceous
plant

Forest

a land area dominated by dense
tree cover

Forest Stand

a contiguous area of trees of
similar species composition,
age and structure that can
be managed as a unit

Fragmentation

most often used in natural resources management to describe disruption of continuity of a vegetation or type community

- For example, an interstate highway can cause fragmentation of a forest.

Glean

to gather food in a systematic manner

Ground Litter

dead and decaying organic matter found on the ground such as leaves, branches and dead plants

Habitat

the physical and biological resources (food, cover, water) required by a species within an area of sufficient size (space) for that species

Hardwoods

usually refers to non-coniferous
trees bearing leaves

Herbaceous Plants

grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes
and ferns; plants having soft
rather than woody stems

Herbicide

chemicals used to kill or control the growth of undesirable plants

Herbivore

a plant-eating animal

Hibernaculum
(plural, hibernacula)

the winter den or shelter for various
species

Home Range

the area used by an animal;
usually described as the area
that encompasses the daily,
seasonal, and annual
movements of an animal

Insecticide

chemicals used to control insects

Insectivore

an insect-eating animal

Intermittent

occurring at irregular intervals

Interspersion

the mixing of vegetation types or successional stages; high interspersion represents a lot of mixing; low interspersion represents little mixing

Invertebrates

animals lacking a backbone

- Examples include insects, spiders, mollusks, and crustaceans

Irrigate

to water through diversion
ditches and pipes

Juxtaposition

the arrangement of vegetation types or successional stages

Keystone Species

plant or animal species with a disproportionate influence in its community relative to its abundance

Landscape

an area that represents several interacting ecosystems; usually regional in reference

Latrine

site where various mammal species, such as raccoon or river otter, habitually defecate or urinate

Legume

plants that bear seeds in a pod

- Examples include lespedezas, clovers, soybeans, peas, and black locust

Mast

collective term for fruits, trees, shrubs and vines, both hard and soft (fleshy), such as acorns, hickory nuts, persimmon, mulberry, blackberry, and grape

Migration

usually used to describe the periodic movement to and from a breeding area; may also be used to explain other seasonal movements, such as altitudinal migration in elevation in response to snow cover and food availability

Mortality

(compensatory and additive)
– death of individuals

Native

plant and animal species
originating historically or migrating
naturally to a particular ecoregion

Nutrients

chemicals required for plants
and animals to grow and exist

Omnivore

an animal that eats both plant and animal material

Perennial

plant species that grow from a root system that remains alive more than two years

Phytoplankton

microscopic floating and
suspended aquatic plants

Plateau

an elevated, relatively level
expanse of land; sometimes
called tableland

Point Count

a census method commonly used to monitor relative abundance of songbirds

Population

a group of individuals of the same species living in a given area that interact with each other

Reforestation

usually refers to planting trees in an area that was previously forested and recently harvested

Regenerate

to replace lost or damaged parts with new tissue

Regeneration

in forestry, refers to young trees

Rejuvenate

to stimulate and return to
good health and vigor

Riparian

the area adjacent to and influenced by a water source such as a stream, river, pond, lake, swamp or other wetland

Savanna

an area with approximately 5—30% coverage of trees with a herbaceous understory maintained by fire and/or grazing

Scarify

breaking down the protective coating on various species of seed allowing the seed to germinate; often facilitated by fire or digestion

Secluded

occurring in a remote or other area where visibility is obstructed or reduced

Sedge

grass-like plant, often associated
with moist areas and usually with
triangular stems

Zooplankton

microscopic animals that
float/swim in water

Seedbank

seed occurring naturally in the top few inches of soil

Senescent

the growth stage in a plant or plant part (like a leaf) from full maturity to death; old age

Sere

a series of successional stages at a particular site, leading to a mature, climax community

Seral Stage

a successional stage in a sere

Silviculture

the process of tending and
managing a forest

Slash

residue left on the ground
after trees are harvested

Softwood

usually refers to coniferous trees, though some deciduous trees such as red maple and aspen also have relatively soft wood

Species

a type of organism whose members can freely interbreed with each other and genetically are very similar; do not necessarily interact or are located together

Stagnant

sluggish; not producing to potential

Stocking Rate

amount of land allotted to each animal for the entire grazable portion of the year

Subclimax

successional stage occurring prior to climax stage, but further development is inhibited by some factor(s) other than climate

Succession

replacement of one vegetation type or seral stage by another

Succulent

having thick fleshy leaves that
conserve moisture

Terrain

referring to topography

Thatch

accumulation of dead grass and
leaves on the ground

Threatened
Species

threatened to become
endangered



Transitional

the process of changing from
one form to another

Turbidity

a measure of water clarity (or cloudiness) as influenced by suspension of sediment or other materials, but most often soil particles (usually silt or clay)

Vegetation Type

a community or assemblage of plants commonly found in association with each other

Woody

referring to trees and shrubs

Woodland

an area with approximately
30—70% coverage of trees
with a herbaceous-
dominated understory
maintain primarily by fire