

Glossary (Selected definitions from the 2020 Land Management Plan).

adaptive management: The general framework encompassing the three phases of planning: assessment, plan development, and monitoring (36 CFR 219.5). This framework supports decision-making that meets management objectives while simultaneously accruing information to improve future management by adjusting the plan or plan implementation. Adaptive management is a structured, cyclical process for planning and decision-making in the face of uncertainty and changing conditions with feedback from monitoring, which includes using the planning process to actively test assumptions, track relevant conditions over time, and measure management effectiveness.

animal unit month: The amount of dry forage required by one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds or its equivalent, for 1 month, based on a forage allowance of 26 pounds per day. Not synonymous with animal month.

at-risk species: Federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, and species of conservation concern that are known to occur in the plan area and relevant to planning process (36 CFR 219.6(b)).

bison suitable habitat: grass, forb and shrub dominated landscapes serve as general range; forested areas with less than 25 percent coniferous canopy cover serve as spring range.

connecting corridors: for wildlife, these are areas with no barriers and minimal impediments, through which wild animals are able to move between patches of suitable habitat.

connectivity: The ecological conditions that exist at several spatial and temporal scales that provides landscape linkages that permit the exchange of flow, sediments, and nutrients; the daily and seasonal movements of animals within home ranges; the dispersal and genetic interchange between populations; and the long distance range shifts of species, such as in response to climate change (36 CFR 219.19). Connectivity needs vary by species. For example, Yellowstone cutthroat trout are able to move upstream to spawn as long as there is not a barrier to connectivity, such as a dam.

conservation: The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments, ecological communities, and species.

culturally significant species: Plant and animal species whose existence and symbolic value are essential to the stability of a cultural group through time. Sweet grass and buffalo are examples for Northern Plains Tribes.

desired condition: A description of specific social, economic, and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward which management of the land and resources should be directed.

ecological condition: The biological and physical environment that can affect the diversity of plant and animal communities, the persistence of native species, and the productive capacity of ecological systems; ecological conditions include habitat and other influences on species and the environment; examples of ecological conditions include the abundance and distribution of aquatic and terrestrial habitats, connectivity, roads and other structural developments, human uses, and invasive species (36 CFR 219.19).

ecological integrity: The quality or condition of an ecosystem when its dominant ecological characteristics (for example, composition, structure, function, connectivity, and species composition and diversity) occur within the natural range of variation and can withstand and recover from most perturbations imposed by natural environmental dynamics or human influence (36 CFR 219.19).

ecosystem driver: A natural or human-induced factor that directly or indirectly causes a change in an ecosystem. Examples include climate change, fire events, invasive species and flooding.

fire-adapted species: A plant or animal that has evolutionary adaptations to survive and thrive in an ecosystem where fire is a primary driver, including tree species that are termed fire-tolerant as well as other plant and animal species that have a myriad of other types of adaptations. Some examples of adaptations are the serotinous cones of lodgepole pine, which open only when heated in a fire; rhizomatous (below ground) root systems, which are protected from heat and flame, and color adaptations such as the black-backed woodpecker, which is well-camouflaged against the burned trunk of a tree.

focal species: A small subset of species whose status permits inference to the integrity of the larger ecological system to which it belongs and provides meaningful information regarding the effectiveness of the plan in maintaining or restoring the ecological conditions to maintain the diversity of plant and animal communities in the plan area. Focal species would be commonly selected on the basis of their functional role in ecosystems (36 CFR 219.19).

forage reserve allotments, also known as grassbanks: A designation for allotments on which there is no current term permit obligation for some or all of the estimated livestock grazing capacity and where there has been a determination made to use the available forage on the allotment to enhance management flexibility for authorized livestock use. Forage reserve allotments may be authorized livestock use when there is a loss of forage availability or to resolve short-term resource concerns arising from a variety of factors including but not limited to drought, wildland fire, rangeland restoration activities, litigation or consultation needs, or short-term resolution of resource concerns on other National Forest System allotments (FSH 2209.13, 13.3).

goals (GO): Broad statements of intent, other than desired conditions, usually related to process or interaction with the public. Also see chapter 1 of this plan.

grazing authorizations and reauthorizations: Grazing permits with term status of 10 years or with temporary status of 1 year. Upon expiration of an existing grazing permit, they can be reauthorized provided eligibility and qualification requirements are met. Upon sale of base property or permitted livestock, a grazing permit with term status may be authorized to the purchaser of base property or permitted livestock as the preferred applicant, provided eligibility and qualifications requirements are met (36 CFR 222).

grazing permit: Authorizes livestock to use National Forest System or other lands under Forest Service control for the purpose of livestock production. Term permits are issued for up to 10 years with priority for renewal at the end of the term. On-and-off grazing permits are permits with specific provisions on rangelands only part of which is National Forest System lands or other lands under Forest Service control. Private land grazing permits are permits issued to persons who control grazing lands adjacent to or within national forest proclaimed boundary and who waive exclusive grazing use of these lands to the United States for the full period the permit is to be issued

(36 CFR 222). Temporary permits are issued for up to 1 year. Examples include livestock use permits for transportation livestock to persons engaged in commercial packing or dude ranching.

guideline (GDL): A constraint on project and activity decision-making that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. Also see chapter 1 of this plan.

key big game habitat: Habitats important to the seasonal and year-round life history of big game species necessary to support sustainable herd size and distribution. Examples include security habitat, winter range, and parturition areas.

long-term persistence: means a species continues to exist in the plan area over a sufficiently long period that encompasses multiple generations of the species, the time interval between major disturbance events, the time interval to develop all successional stages of habitat types, or the time interval needed for the overall ecosystem to respond to management (FSH 1909.12, chapter 20, section 23.13c. 1c.).

monitoring: A systematic process of collecting information to evaluate effects of actions or changes in conditions or relationships (36 CFR 219.19).

native species: An organism that was historically or is present in a particular ecosystem as a result of natural migratory or evolutionary processes; and not as a result of an accidental or deliberate introduction into that ecosystem. An organism's presence and evolution (adaptation) in an area are determined by climate, soil, and other biotic and abiotic factors (36 CFR 219.19).

natural range of variation: The variation of ecological characteristics and processes over scales of time and space that are appropriate for a given management application. The natural range of variation is a tool for assessing the ecological integrity and does not necessarily constitute a management target or desired condition. The natural range of variation can help identify key structural, functional, compositional, and connectivity characteristics, for which plan components may be important for either maintenance or restoration of such ecological conditions.

objective (OBJ): A concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Also see chapter 1 of this plan.

open and unclaimed or unoccupied lands: This term is trademark of the treaties negotiated in the 1850s. The term applied to public domain lands held by the United States that had not been fenced or claimed through a land settlement act. Today "open and unclaimed lands" applies to lands remaining in the public domain (for the purposes of hunting, gathering foods, and grazing livestock or trapping). The courts have ruled that National Forest System lands reserved from the public domain are open, unclaimed, or unoccupied land, and as such the term applies to reserved treaty rights on National Forest System land.

persistence: Continued existence.

refugia: Specific site locations and habitat conditions that support populations of organisms that are limited to small fragments of their geographic range. Climate change refugia refers to areas relatively buffered from contemporary climate change over time that enable persistence of valued physical, ecological, and socio-cultural resources.

resilience: The ability of an ecosystem and its component parts to absorb, or recover from the effects of disturbances through preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential structures and functions and redundancy of ecological patterns across the landscape.

restore: To renew by the process of restoration (36 CFR 219.19).

restoration: The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed; ecological restoration focuses on reestablishing the composition, structure, pattern, and ecological processes necessary to facilitate terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems sustainability, resilience, and health under current and future conditions (36 CFR 219.19).

riparian wildlife habitat: An environment that occurs along lakes, rivers, streams, springs, and seeps where the vegetation and microclimate are influenced by year-round or seasonal water and associated high water tables. Plant and animal species in these areas are more productive and diverse than on nearby uplands, making these areas very important to many wildlife species.

risk: A combination of the likelihood that a negative outcome will occur and the severity of the subsequent negative consequences (36 CFR 219.19).

sacred place: A sacred place is any specific location on National Forest System land, whether site, feature, or landscape, that is identified by an Indian Tribe, or the religious societies, groups, clans, or practitioners of an Indian Tribe, as having historically important spiritual and cultural significance to that entity, greater than the surrounding area itself. Sacred places may include but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, burial places, traditional cultural places, biological communities, stone and earth structures, and cultural landscapes uniquely connecting historically important cultural sites, or features in any manner meaningful to the identifying Tribe. Report to the Secretary of Agriculture—USDA Policy and Procedures Review and Recommendations: Indian Sacred Sites (December 2012).

sacred site: Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites defines an Indian Sacred Site as “any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian Tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the Indian Tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.”

species of conservation concern: A species, other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species, that is known to occur in the plan area and for which the regional forester has determined that the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area (36 CFR 219.9(c)).

standard (STD): A mandatory constraint on project and activity decision making, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements. Also see chapter 1 of this plan.

stressors: Factors that may directly or indirectly degrade or impair ecosystem composition, structure or ecological process in a manner that may impair its ecological integrity, such as an invasive species, loss of connectivity, or the disruption of a natural disturbance regime (36 CFR 219.19). Also see “ecosystem stressor.”

suitability of lands: A determination made regarding the appropriateness of various lands within a plan area for various uses or activities, based on the desired conditions applicable to those lands. The terms suitable and suited and not suitable and not suited can be considered the same.

treaty rights: Those rights or interests reserved in treaties for the use and benefit of Tribes. The nature and extent of treaty rights are defined in each treaty. Only Congress may abolish or modify treaties or treaty rights.

tribal cultural landscapes: any place in which a relationship, past or present, exists between a place resources, and an associated group of indigenous people whose cultural practices, beliefs or identity connects them to that place.

viable population: A population of a species that continues to persist over the long term with sufficient distribution to be resilient and adaptable to stressors and likely future environments (36 CFR 219.19).

warm season grass: Warm-season grasses (for example, blue grama, buffalograss, bluestems) grow during warmer periods when temperatures are 70 to 95 °Fahrenheit. Warm-season grasses use soil moisture more efficiently than cool-season species and often can withstand drought conditions. These grasses have different leaf cellular structures that cause them to be more fibrous, contain more lignin, and be less digestible. Therefore, livestock normally prefer cool season grasses if they are at the same growth stage as warm season species. However, because cool season grasses often enter the reproductive period at about the time that warm season grasses begin growth, livestock normally seek out this new growth from warm-season species. A warm season species generally exhibit the C4 photosynthetic pathway; also known as a C4 plant.

winter range: The portion of the overall area a species inhabits where the majority of individuals are found from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site-specific period of winter. In the Rocky Mountains (generally including the montane portion of the plan area), winter range areas tend to have a relatively low amount of snow cover.