

Glossary

biodiversity: See **biological diversity**.

biological diversity: The variety of life over some spatial unit; The broadly diverse forms into which organisms have evolved and is considered at three levels genetic, species, and ecosystem.

canopy closure: Canopy closure is measured by the ground area covered by the crowns of trees or woody vegetation as delimited by the vertical projection of crown perimeters and commonly expressed as a percent of total ground area.

CC: See **canopy closure**.

DBH: See **diameter at breast height**.

diameter at breast height: Tree trunk diameters measured at breast height, defined as the diameter of the tree 4.5 feet (1.37 m) above ground on the uphill side of the tree.

exotic plant: An introduced plant (not native to the United States) that has the potential to disrupt or change the plant or animal species composition of a native plant ecosystem.

forest and rangeland: Specific habitats in the Conifer, Hardwood, Shrub, Grassland, Desert and, some Wetland (Wet Meadow) land cover types excluding Urban, Agriculture, Barren, and Water categories.

forests: A biological community of plants and animals that is dominated by trees and other woody plants; Lands having greater than 10 percent tree canopy cover. All habitats in the Conifer and Hardwood Land Cover categories.

habitat quality: A subjective term used to describe the condition of a specific habitat and its ability to support a species.

habitat stages: Vegetative descriptors in the CWHR system used to classify vegetation size and canopy closure. The CWHR system uses a ranking of 1-6 for tree size and single letter codes (S, P, M, D) for canopy closure classes. FRAP has further grouped these as follows:

- Size Class
 - Sapling, poles = size classes 1, 2, 3; less than 11 inches dbh
 - Small = size class 4; 11 inches to 24 inches dbh
 - Medium to large = size classes 5 and 6; greater than 24 inches dbh
- Canopy Closure
 - Open = Canopy closure classes S and P; less than 40 percent CC
 - Moderate = CC class M; 40 to 60 percent CC
 - Dense = CC class D; greater than 60 percent CC

herbaceous: Refers to a plant that has a non-woody stem such as forbs, grasses and ferns.

land cover: Predominant vegetation life forms, natural features, or land uses that occupy a land area.

minimum mapping unit: The smallest area classified, or designated, in a dataset. In the case of vegetation mapping, if a stand of a vegetation type is smaller than the minimum mapping unit, it will not appear in the data.

MMU: See **minimum mapping unit**.

rangelands: Any expanse of land not fertilized, cultivated or irrigated that is suitable, and predominately used for, grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife. These include the Conifer Woodland, Hardwood Woodland, Shrub, Grassland, Desert land cover types along with the some habitats within the Wetland and Hardwood Forest land cover classes.

size class: an interval into which a measurement of the trees' trunk diameters at breast height (DBH) is divided for classification e.g., two-inch size classes.

underrepresented habitat: A habitat with less than 30 percent of its area in the Public or Reserved Management Landscape categories.

urban: A land cover class and Management Landscape class having housing densities greater than one unit per acre or classified as commercial/industrial/transportation. Human impact on natural ecological processes is significant.

water: Areas having greater than 98 percent of the surface in open water.

wetland: An aquatic (water dominated) land cover type having greater than two percent vegetation cover and having less than 10 percent of the over story canopy occupied by trees or shrubs.

Literature cited

- Barrows, J.S., D.V. Sandberg, and J.D. Hart. 1976. Fire features of quaking aspen stands. pp. 14-21. In: Aspen stands as wildfire fuel breaks. Eisenhower Consortium Bulletin 4. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.
- Burton, D. 2000. Aspen Delineation Project, project summary, October 2000, Pacific and Placerville Ranger Districts, Eldorado National Forest. Placerville, CA: U.S. Forest Service.
- Centers for Water and Wildland Resources. 1996. Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project, final report to Congress, status of the Sierra Nevada, volume I, assessment summaries and management strategies. Wildland Resources Center Report 36. Davis, CA: University of California, Davis. Web site accessed June 6, 2003. http://alexandria.sdc.ucsb.edu/snep/pdf/exec_sum.pdf.
- DeByle, N.V. 1985. Animal impacts. pp. 115-123. In: DeByle, N.V. and R.P. Winokur (editors). Aspen: ecology and management in the western United States. General Technical Report RM-119. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.
- DeByle, N.V. and R.P. Winokur (editors). 1985. Aspen: ecology and management in the western United States. General Technical Report RM-119. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.
- Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). 1999. Teale Data Center Government Ownership, (GOVTOWNA, 1999). Sacramento, CA.
- Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). 2002a. Management Landscapes, v1.0. Sacramento, CA. Web site accessed June 6, 2003. <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/data/frapgisdata/select.asp>
- Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). 2002b. Multi-source Land Cover, v02_1. Sacramento, CA. Web site accessed April 10, 2003. <http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/frapgisdata/select.asp>.
- Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP). 2002c. Methods for development of habitat data: Forest and Range 2002 Assessment. Technical Working Paper 8-19-02. Web site accessed April 16, 2003. http://frap.cdf.ca.gov/projects/frap_veg/methods/Methods_Development_Habitat_Data_02_2.pdf.
- Loft, E.R. and D.O. Smith. 2000. Terrestrial vertebrate diversity in Sierra Nevada forests: assessing species reliance on tree size and canopy class for conservation planning. Review manuscript. Sacramento, CA: California Department of Fish and Game.
- Loft, E.R., J.W. Menke, J.G. Kie, and R.C. Bertram. 1987. Influence of cattle stocking rate on the structural profile of deer hiding cover. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 51(3):655-663.
- Potter, D.A. 1998. Forest communities of the upper montane in the central and southern Sierra Nevada. General Technical Report PSW-GTR-169. Albany, CA: U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station.
- Shepperd, W. 2001. Manipulations to regenerate aspen ecosystems. In: Shepperd, W.D., D. Binkley, D. L. Bartos, T.J. Stohlgren, and L.G. Eskew (compilers). *Sustaining aspen in western landscapes:*

symposium proceedings; 13–15 June 2000; Grand Junction, CO. Proceedings RMRS-P-18. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station.