

Appendix B: Glossary

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

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

biological diversity: the variety of life forms in a given area. Diversity can be categorized in terms of the number of species, the variety in the area's plant and animal communities, the genetic variability of the animals, or a combination of these elements.

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

browse: palatable twigs, shoots, leaves and buds of woody plants. Term often used to describe a category of deer foods.

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.

carnivores: the category of animals that prey or feed upon animals and insects. (*carni-*, *clash;-vore*, eater)

carrying capacity: the maximum number of animals that a specific habitat or area can support without causing deterioration or degradation of that habitat.

carrion: stinking, rotten flesh.

climax: the highest ecological development of a plant community capable of perpetuation under the prevailing climatic and edaphic conditions.

coastal plain: large, nearly level areas of land near ocean shores.

competition: when two or more organisms use the same resource.

congregate: when animals group together in an area.

conifer: usually refers to needleleaf trees that bear their seeds in cones. Spruces, pines, and firs are examples.

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

crown-sprout: the ability of some plants to regrow after plant material above ground is removed by fire or other disturbances.

cultivate: tilling or working the soil for the purpose of growing crops and other desired plants.

decadent: declining in health and/or productivity.

deciduous: plants that annually shed their leaves. Usually trees and shrubs.

dense: thick, or crowded closely together.

detrimental: having harmful effects.

dew: water droplets condensed from the air onto cool surfaces such as leaves. Usually occurs at night.

dominant: the plant or animal species that is the most noticeable and common in an area. Often are a controlling force in the community where they occur.

den tree (cavity tree): a tree that contains a weather-tight cavity used for nesting or protection.

diversity: the distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a given area.

drought: the lack of normal precipitation for an extended period of time. A long period with little or no rain.

ecotone: the transition zone between communities, for example, the boundary between field and forest. Ecotones often are rich in species, as they harbor species from adjoining communities and their predators.

ecosystem management: the concept of resource management that considers land, water, air, plants and animals to be an entire system that should be managed as a whole. All of these elements are interrelated (including man).

edge effect: refers to the diversity and abundance of the wildlife species that are attracted to areas where two or more vegetative types or age classes meet (see ecotone).

egg: for the purpose of the contest, eggs shall be classified as a vertebrate (reptile, amphibian, fish, bird) egg. Invertebrate eggs (spiders, insects) represent the adult invertebrate category.

endangered species: a species that is in danger of becoming extinct.

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

evergreen: plants that do not lose all their leaves at one time. Usually conifer trees, but also some broadleaf trees such as live oak.

excavate: to make a cavity or hole. To hollow out.

exclusion: keeping something out of an area.

fertile: rich in material needed to support plant growth.

fluctuate: to vary, or rise and fall irregularly.

forage: refers to the vegetation eaten by animals.

forb: low-growing herbaceous plants, both annuals and perennials. Can be shown with a flower as part of a plant. Sometimes referred to as weeds.

fruit: fleshy fruit and berries.

glaciation: the action of huge masses of moving ice formed from compacted snow.

glean: to gather food in a systematic manner with a minimum of waste and unnecessary effort.

grain: cereal grains for human consumption (includes wheat, oats, rye, barley, rice, corn; all other commercially grown crops are considered seeds except for fruits or mast species).

grass: relatively short plants (less than four to five feet) typically having long narrow leaves and hollow, jointed stems. Flowers are inconspicuous and often in clusters.

ground litter: layer of the forest floor consisting of decaying organic matter such as leaves, branches and dead plants.

habitat: an area that provides an animal or plant with adequate food, water, shelter and living space.

hardwood: deciduous or broadleaf trees.

herbaceous: all grasses and forbs having soft rather than woody stems, including flowers and plants called weeds.

herbicide: chemicals used to control the growth of or kill undesired plants.

herbivores: the category of animals that feed on plants. (*herbi-*, plant; *-vore*, eater)

home range: the area used by an animal to fulfill its food, cover, water and reproductive requirements.

insecticide: chemicals used to control insects.

interior basin: land areas that are generally bowl-shaped and surrounded by hills and mountains. Usually drained by one river system and isolated from ocean influence by mountains and hills.

invertebrate: animals lacking a backbone. Some examples are insects, spiders, mollusks and crustaceans.

irrigate: to supply cropland, parks, yards, etc. with water through the use of diversions, ditches and pipes.

legume: plants that bear seeds in a pod. Typically have characteristics that allow them to improve the fertility of the soil. Some examples are alfalfa, clover, soybeans and peas.

mast: fruits or nuts used as a food source by wildlife.

- **hard mast** is the fruit or nuts of trees such as oak, beech, walnut, chinquapin and hickory.
- **soft mast** includes the fruits and berries of dogwood, viburnums, elderberry, spice bush, grape, raspberry and blackberry.

manipulate: manage or influence to achieve desired results.

moldboard plow: (also called turning plow) a type of plow that turns the soil completely upside down, burying all crop remains underneath. Does not leave crop residue on ground surface.

nectar: for purposes of the contest, will be represented by flowers presented by themselves (no other plant parts) or honey (processed nectar).

neotropical migrants: the category of migratory birds that spend the winter in Central and South America and return to North America to breed.

nest box/structure: an artificial box, platform, or other structure that enhances the reproductive habitat for desirable species.

nutrients: chemicals required for plants and animals to grow and exist.

nuts: includes walnuts, hickory nuts, acorns, beechnuts, hazelnuts, almonds.

omnivores: the category of animals that feed on both plants and animals. (*omni-*, all; *-vore*, eater)

peninsula: a long, narrow projection of land into water.

perennial: a plant that lives for several years. Having a life span of more than two years.

phytoplankton: microscopic floating and suspended aquatic plants. Are the first step of the food chain in many aquatic systems.

prescribed burning: the controlled application of fire to wildland fuels to attain planned resource management objectives (brush control, wildfire hazard reduction, wildlife habitat improvements, etc.)

regenerate: to replace lost or damaged parts with new tissue.

rejuvenate: to stimulate and return to youthful health and vigor.

riparian: land situated along the bank of a stream or other body of water. The land area that is influenced by the adjacent water.

rotenone: an organic compound (extracted from the roots of derris, timbo and cube) used as an insecticide and fish poison.

secluded: removed or screened from view of other areas and disturbances.

sedge: grass-like plant with long narrow leaves, stems are round. Many species like wet areas.

seed: the propagative part of the plant, but for the purpose of the contest, it is not fleshly, is not a nut or acorn, and is not a cereal or small grain.

shrub: plants with woody stems that are usually less than 12 feet tall. Often have many main stems rather than one main stem (trunk).

slash: the residue left on the ground after trees are harvested.

slope: the degree that the land surface is inclined.

softwood: usually refers to coniferous trees. Some deciduous trees such as aspen also have relatively soft wood.

species: animals and plants that are the same and successfully reproduce the same kind of plant or animal.

stagnant: sluggish, not producing to potential.

streamside management zone (SMZ): buffer strips, filter strips or riparian zones adjacent to water bodies. Width varies, but must be sufficient to effectively prevent sedimentation and retain stream water temperature and/or wildlife cover.

subclimax: a Stage in succession that is short of the climax Stage, but further development is inhibited by some factor(s) other than climate.

succession: the change in species composition and community structure over time. (Example: the development of a stand from field to mature forest).

succulent: having thick fleshy leaves that conserve moisture.

terrain: the character or topography of the land.

transitional: the process of changing from one form to another.

tree: a plant that is usually more than 12 feet tall and has a single main woody stem with a distinct crown of leaves.

tuber: a swollen, fleshy, starchy end of an underground side shoot or stem, distinguished by their eyes, which sprout into plants with shoots and roots. Chufa and potatoes are examples; peanuts are not tubers.

turning plow: (also called moldboard plow) a type of plow that turns the soil completely upside down, burying all crop remains underneath. Does not leave crop residue on ground surface.

understory: **a)** the layer formed by the crowns of smaller trees in a forest. **b)** the trees beneath the forest canopy.

undulating: a regular rising and falling or side-to-side motion.

valley: an elongated lowland between mountains, hills or other upland areas that often has a river or stream running through it.

vigor: in plants and animals, refers to the capacity for strong growth and high survival.

waste water: the water that runs off cropland during irrigation.

wildlife: a broad term that includes nondomesticated animals but not exclusively mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians.

wildlife openings: openings maintained to meet food or cover needs for wildlife. They may contain native vegetation or planted crops and can be maintained by burning, disking, mowing, planting or fertilizing.

zooplankton: microscopic animals that float/swim in water. They consume phytoplankton and are an important part of the aquatic food chain.