

Appendix B: Course Glossary

Courtesy of WOLF (Woodland Operations Learning Foundation)

Annual allowable cut (AAC)

The amount of usable wood that a mill is allowed to harvest in a single year. It is often measured as weight of wood hauled over a weigh scale, then converted to cubic meters of solid volume.

Annual Operating Plan (AOP)

A plan prepared and submitted by the forest operator each year. When the AOP is approved by Alberta, it provides the authorization to harvest.

Archeological resources

Archaeology is the study of past human life and culture through study of the material remains left behind. Archaeological resources include the sites where materials are found (e.g. settlements, building features, graves), as well as cultural materials or artifacts such as tools and pottery.

Compartment

A part of an FMA that is mapped out separately for planning and operations. In some FMAs these are referred to as “Working Circles” or “Management Units.”

Coarse woody debris

Larger tree stems or pieces that remain on the logged site. It does not normally include branches and leaves.

Forest certification

A certificate is given to a mill that harvests timber in such a way that the forest ecosystems are maintained forever. The demand for forest certification came in the 1990s when environmental issues rose to the spotlight and sustainability of ecosystems was wanted to be ensured.

Forest management plan (FMP)

The overall plan for the FMA or other area. It includes the other planning documents and phases of planning (e.g. Detailed Forest Management Plan; General Development Plan; Annual Operating Plan).

Habitat

The structures and environmental features needed by wildlife to carry out their life processes. Habitat descriptions are usually specific to the species of wildlife being discussed. Wildlife includes amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles.

Landbase

The land on which the forest operator grows and harvests trees.

Long-run sustained yield average

An average level of harvest that can theoretically be sustained indefinitely.

Mature timber

A point in the life of the tree when it begins to produce less and less new wood each year. It is often given an arbitrary age value or even a size that must be attained before it considered economical to log.

Multiple use

The management of land to meet the needs of a wide variety of people, plants and animals. It often includes timber, recreation, range, minerals, watershed, fish and wildlife, scenery, and historic resources.

Natural disturbance pattern

A pattern of vegetation on the landscape resulting from wildfire, high wind or other natural event.

Overmature timber

A stand of trees that is no longer adding new growth of wood because losses to insects, disease and death are larger than growth.

Range of natural variability

The spectrum of conditions that one might find in nature.

Regulated Forestry Professional

Persons who have the education, training and have agreed to principles and ethics of their respective professional organization of peers. In Alberta an RFP must be a member of either the College of Alberta Professional Foresters, or the College of Alberta Professional Forest Technologists.

Retention

Trees (live or dead) that are left behind after logging.

Riparian area

The zone in which plants grow rooted in the water table of streams, lakes, ponds, springs, marshes, bogs and wet meadows.

Stewardship

Caring for the land and associated resources so that healthy ecosystems can be passed on to future generations.

Surge cut

A temporary increase in the amount of wood authorized for harvest to achieve a short or long term gain.

Sustainable

Something that can be continued indefinitely.

Timber supply analysis

Calculations made using built-in assumptions regarding tree growth patterns. It is used to determine an appropriate annual allowable cut.