

Glossary of Forest Terms

Biological diversity (biodiversity)

the variety of all forms of life - plants, animals and micro-organisms, the genes which constitute them and the ecosystems they inhabit.

Buffer (strip)

a protective margin of vegetation abutting a stream, spring, wetland, body of standing water, sumpy ground or an area of rainforest, which protects it from potentially detrimental disturbances in the surrounding forest. Buffer width is defined as horizontal distance from which various operations are excluded.

Code of Forest Practices for Timber Production

a set of operational principles and, in some cases, minimum performance standards for the conduct of timber harvesting and associated works in forests in Victoria.

Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative (CAR) Reserve System

a reserve system to conserve all native forest types as well as the plants and animals that depend on them. Comprehensive - the full range of forest communities recognised by an agreed national scientific classification at appropriate hierarchical levels; Adequate - the maintenance of the ecological viability and integrity of populations, species and communities; Representative - those sample areas of the forest that are selected for inclusion reserves which should reasonably reflect the biological diversity of the communities.

Comprehensive Regional Assessment (CRA)

a joint assessment of all forest values - environmental, heritage, economic and social - by the Commonwealth and State leading to the establishment of a Comprehensive, Adequate and Representative Reserve system, agreements on forest management, and the signing of a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA).

Coupe

an area of forest of variable size, shape and orientation from which logs for sawmilling or other industrial processes are harvested.

Disturbance

any range of factors affecting the condition of natural areas. Disturbance may be natural or human-induced. Natural disturbances include wildfires and rainstorms, and are part of natural ecological processes. Human-induced or 'unnatural' disturbance includes timber harvesting, agricultural clearing, mining and grazing. The factors that are important when considering disturbance are the origin, duration, and intensity of the disturbance and its impact on the environment.

Ecologically Sustainable Forest Management (ESFM)

managing forests so that they are sustained in perpetuity for the benefit of society by ensuring that the values of forests are not lost or degraded for current and future generations.

Endangered species and communities

a species which is in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue. Included are species whose numbers have been reduced to a critical level or whose habitats have been so drastically reduced that the species are deemed to be in danger of extinction.

Environmentally sensitive area

an area of highly significant environmental value that is sensitive to disturbance. Examples are streams and their associated riparian zones, sites of rare floral or faunal species, or landscapes that are visible from popular view points.

Exotic

introduced, not native.

Export woodchip licence

a licence issued by the Commonwealth Government authorising the export of woodchips.

Farm forestry (agroforestry)

the growth and management of trees on farms as part of the farm enterprise for the purpose of producing wood and/or non-wood products.

Forest coupe plan

a plan that must be prepared for each harvesting operation in public native forest and will contain a map identifying the area and a schedule incorporating the specifications and conditions under which the operation is to be administered and controlled.

Forest estate

all forests growing on public or private lands.

Forest Management Areas (FMA)

the basic units for forest planning and management in Victoria. Currently Victoria is divided into 14 Forest Management Areas as defined in the Forests (Timber Harvesting) Act 1990.

Forest Management Plan (FMP)

a plan developed to address the full range of values and uses in State forest by Forest Management Areas.

General Management Zone (GMZ)

delineates the area to be managed for the broad range of forest values available in the area. The GMZ is divided into two sub-zones (Timber Production, where timber harvesting under substandard conditions is one of the main uses, and Other Uses, where the forest is unsuitable for sawlog production but where other activities are permitted).

Habitat

the place or environment where an organism naturally occurs.

Hardwood

timber from broad-leaved, flowering trees, irrespective of physical hardness. Includes eucalypts, wattles and rainforest species.

Intensive management

silvicultural intervention beyond the minimum required to ensure restocking. It can include some or all of site preparation, planting, fertilising, weed control, spacing and thinning.

JANIS

a joint Commonwealth-State sub-committee responsible for preparing reports on the implementation of the National Forest Policy Statement for the information of the relevant Ministerial councils (the Australian and New Zealand Environment Conservation Council and the Ministerial Council on Forestry, Fisheries and

Aquaculture).

Landing

a place where trees or parts of trees are snigged for sorting, processing and loaded for transport from the forest. Conversion sites at which small amounts of produce are processed and which do not involve earthworks or clearing are not regarded as landings.

Mature

forest stands and/or individual trees where the tree crowns are well foliated and rounded. The height and crown development of the trees has effectively ceased (compred with regrowth) but decline of the crown (loss of limbs, development of epicormic growth) has not yet significantly begun (as in the senescent or over mature growth stage).

National Estate

those places, being components of the natural environment of Australia, or the cultural environment of Australia which are listed on the Register of the National Estate as having aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community.

Native forest

any locally indigenous forest community containing the full complement of native species and habitats normally associated with that community, or having the potential to develop these characteristics.

National Forest Inventory

a joint Commonwealth-State program responsible for collating comprehensive information about the location and diversity of Australia's forest estate.

National Forest Policy Statement

a joint Commonwealth, State and Territory Government response which outlines agreed objectives and policies for Australia's public and private forests.

National Wilderness Inventory

identifies areas of quality wilderness across Australia. Provides wilderness resource information to assist wilderness conservation and management planning in all States and Territories where the program has been conducted on a cooperative basis with the Australian Heritage Commission.

Old growth forest

forest which contains significant amounts of its oldest growth stage in the upper stratum - usually senescent trees - and has been subjected to any disturbance, the effect of which is now negligible.

Overmature

a growth stage of a forest stand or individual tree that is characterised by declining crown leaf area and irregular crown shape due to the loss of branches and epicomical growth.

Plantations

intensively managed stands of either native or exotic tree species, created by the regular placement of seedlings or seeds.

Pulpwood

see residual log

Rainforest

closed broadleaved forest vegetation with a more or less continuous rainforest tree canopy of variable height, and with a characteristic composition of species and life forms. Rainforest canopy species are defined as shade tolerant tree species able to regenerate below an undisturbed canopy, or in small canopy gaps resulting from locally recurring minor disturbances such as isolated windthrow or lightning strike, which are part of the rainforest ecosystem. Such species are not dependent on fire for their regeneration.

Reforestation

the re-establishment of a stand of trees by planting or sowing with species native to the locality on previously cleared or poorly forested land.

Regeneration (noun)

the young regrowth of forest plants following disturbance or the forest such as timber harvesting or fire.

Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)

an agreement between the Commonwealth and a State Government about the long-term management and use of forests in a particular region. Its purpose is to reduce uncertainty, duplication and fragmentation in government decision-making by producing a durable agreement on the management and use of forests.

Regrowth forest

- (a) forest stands regenerated either naturally or by seeding following death or removal of the forest overstorey.
- (b) a growth stage of a forest stand or individual tree in which the crowns have a narrow conical form and where the trees are actively growing.

Reserves

areas such as national parks and nature reserves which are subject to an established degree of protection from disturbance.

Residual log (including pulpwood)

produced as a by-product of sawlog harvesting operations, including those low-quality logs suitable for conversion into sawn products or pulpwood. Pulpwood logs (those logs which cannot be economically converted into sawn products) are supplied for conversion into hardwood.

Retained trees

trees retained during harvesting to serve as seed trees or wildlife habitat, or which have been selected to grow on after thinning.

Riparian

of or located on the banks of rivers.

Rotation

the planned number of years between the regeneration of a forest stand and its final harvesting for sawlogs and other roundwood. Sustainable volumes of sawlogs from mature native forests will be generally calculated on the basis of the next final harvest occurring in 80 to 150 years depending on forest type.

Sawlog

any length of a log of merchantable species which is at least 2.7 metres in length, has a small-end diameter of 25 cm or greater, does not have a sweep or crook which exceeds 1/5 diameter from a 2.4m straight edge and is of grade D or better.

Seed trees

trees retained on harvested coupes to provide seed for natural regeneration of that coupe.

Senescent (or overmature)

a growth stage of a forest stand or individual tree that is characterised by declining crown leaf area and irregular crown shape due to loss of branches and epicormal growth.

Silviculture

the theory and practice of managing forest establishment, composition and growth, to achieve specified objectives.

Sawmill residue

material left following the processing of logs into sawn timber.

Softwood

timber of coniferous trees, irrespective of physical hardness. Includes pines and cypresses.

Sustainable yield

the sustainable yield of a forest is the maximum level of commercial timber which can be maintained in perpetuity under a given management regime. In Victoria sustainable yield is defined in legislation as the rate of harvest that can be maintained for a defined period (usually 10 years). This figure may increase if the condition of the forest is improved but should not decrease except in the case of a catastrophic event such as fire.

Thinning

the removal of trees in a forest stand for a given silvicultural objective.

Timber harvesting

includes tree felling, snigging and the marking, sorting, loading and carting of forest produce within a forest.

Value adding

an economic term which describes how a raw product is processed into a product which is of more value than the material in its raw state. In the forest and wood industry context, examples of this include the kiln-drying of sawn timber and the manufacturing of wood veneers.

Vulnerable species

species which may soon move into the 'endangered' category if causal factors affecting their numbers continue. Included are species of which all or most populations are decreasing because of over-exploitation, extensive destruction of habitat; species which are seriously depleted; under threat from severe adverse factors throughout their range; and species with low or localised populations and dependent upon a limited habitat which would be vulnerable to further threats.

Water supply catchment

a catchment of which water is used for domestic water supply.

Wilderness

land that, together with its plant and animal communities, is in a state that has not been substantially modified by, and is remote from, the influences of European settlement or is capable of being restored to such a state; is of

sufficient size to make its maintenance in such a state feasible; and is capable of providing opportunities for solitude and self-reliant recreation.

Wildlife corridor

a strip of forest of varying width reserved from harvesting to facilitate fauna movement including gene movement between patches of forest of varying ages and stages of development.

Wood Utilisation Plan (WUP)

details the type and quantity of wood to be produced from an FMA, together with a plan for the allocation of wood to processors. The plan is generally produced to cover a three year period, with detailed specifications for the first year and indicative specifications for the following two years. It is updated annually.

Woodchips

forest product created by processing timber and residues. Most commonly used in wood panels, pulp and paper making.

Wood pulp

processed wood fibre used for manufacture of paper and paper products.

World heritage

areas deemed to have universal value for humankind under an international convention to which Australia is a signatory.