

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

arid: dry, receives little precipitation

altricial: (of a young bird or other animal) hatched or born in an undeveloped state and requiring care and feeding by the parents

basal area: space or area represented by tree stems at 4.5 feet above ground; for example, a basal area of 60 square feet per acre means that of 43,560 square feet of available space (1 acre), tree trunks represent 60 square feet of that space 4.5 feet above ground

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

browse: *n.* leaves and ends of twigs of woody species; *v.* to eat browse

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

carnivore: a meat-eating animal

carrying capacity: the maximum population that an area can sustain without causing some type of damage; usually related to food, cover, water, or space for a particular species (biological carrying capacity), but the term is sometimes applicable to cultural limitations for humans

coastal plain: large, nearly level areas of land near ocean shores (*"near" being a relative term, as is the case of Arkansas....*)

conifer: usually refers to needleleaf trees that bear seeds in cones; examples include spruces, pines and firs

corridor: a strip or block of cover that connects otherwise isolated areas for a particular wildlife species

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

crepuscular: a behavioral term that describes primary activity near dawn and dusk

decadent: declining in health and/or productivity

deciduous: plants that shed their leaves annually

decomposer: organisms that reduce animal carcasses and waste and dead plant material into nutrients

decomposition: the natural breakdown and decay of dead plant and animal material

defecating: elimination of solid body waste by animals

detrimental: having harmful effects

dominant: the plant or animal species that is the most common in an area

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

ecosystem: the plant community along with the animal community together with soil, air, water, and sunlight

ecotone: where two vegetation types or seral stages meet and blend gradually with characteristics of both communities represented

edge: where two vegetation types or seral stages meet

endangered species: a species in danger of becoming extinct

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

ephemeral: temporary; often seasonal; not long lasting

evergreen: plants that do not lose all their leaves at one time, including some conifers, but also many broadleaf trees and shrubs such as live oak and American holly

excavate: to make a cavity or hole

exclusion: keeping something out of an area

exotic: wildlife species which have never naturally existed in the wild in a particular geographic location

extinct: no longer in existence; a species that has ended or died out

fertile: usually referring to soil high in available nutrients

fingerling: a small fish, especially up to one year of age

fluctuate: to vary, or rise and fall irregularly

food chain: step by step passage of energy and nutrients through an ecosystem; for example, clover—deer—mountain lion

food web: a complex network of food chains

forage: *n.* refers to the vegetation eaten by animals; *v.* to search for food

forb: broad-leaved herbaceous plant

forest stand: a contiguous area of trees of similar species composition, age and structure that can managed as a unit

fragmentation: most often used in natural resources management to describe disruption of continuity of a vegetation or type community; for example, an interstate highway can cause fragmentation of a forest **glean:** to gather food in a systematic manner

ground litter (or "litter"): dead and decaying organic matter found on the ground such as leaves, branches and dead plants

habitat: the physical and biological resources (food, cover, water) required by a species within an area of sufficient size (space) for that species

hardwoods: usually refers to non-coniferous trees bearing leaves

herbaceous plants: grasses, forbs, sedges, rushes and ferns; plants having soft rather than woody stems

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

herbivore: a plant-eating animal

home range: the area used by an animal; usually described as the area that encompasses the daily, seasonal, and annual movements of an animal

insecticide: chemicals used to control insects

insectivore: an insect-eating animal

interspersion: the mixing of vegetation types or successional stages; high interspersion represents a lot of mixing; low interspersion represents little mixing

invertebrates: animals lacking a backbone; examples include insects, spiders, mollusks and crustaceans

irrigate: to water through diversion ditches and pipes

juxtaposition: the arrangement of vegetation types or successional stages

keystone species: plant or animal species with a disproportionate influence in its community relative to its abundance

landscape: an area that represents several interacting ecosystems; usually regional in reference

legume: plants that bear seeds in a pod; examples include lespedezas, clovers, soybeans, peas and black locust

mast: seeds of trees and shrubs that are eaten by wildlife. Hard mast refers to nuts such as acorns, while soft mast refers to berries of a variety of species.

migration: usually used to describe the periodic movement to and from a breeding area; may also be used to explain other seasonal movements, such as altitudinal migration in elevation in response to snow cover and food availability

mortality: death of individuals (see definitions for compensatory and additive mortality in *Wildlife Management Concepts and Terms*)

native: plant and animal species originating historically or migrating naturally to a particular ecoregion

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

omnivore: an animal that eats both plant and animal material

perennial: plant species that grow from a root system that remains alive more than two years

phytoplankton: microscopic floating and suspended aquatic plants

plateau: an elevated, relatively level expanse of land; sometimes called tableland

point count: a census method commonly used to monitor relative abundance of songbirds

population: a group of individuals of the same species living in a given area that interact with each other

precocial: (of a young bird or other animal) hatched or born in an advanced state and able to feed itself almost immediately

regenerate: to replace lost or damaged parts with new tissue

rejuvenate: to stimulate and return to good health and vigor

riparian: the area adjacent to and influenced by a water source such as a creek, stream, river, pond, lake, swamp or other wetland

savanna: an area with scattered trees maintained by fire and/or grazing

scarifies: breaking down the protective coating on various species of seed allowing the seed to germinate; often facilitated by fire or digestion

secluded: occurring in a remote or other area where visibility is obstructed or reduced

sedge: grass-like plant, often associated with moist areas and usually with triangular stems

seedbank: seed occurring naturally in the top few inches of soil

senescent: the growth stage in a plant or plant part (like a leaf) from full maturity to death; old age

sere: a series of successional stages at a particular site, leading to a mature, climax community

seral stage: a successional stage in a sere

silviculture: the process of tending and managing a forest

slash: residue left on the ground after trees are harvested

softwood: usually refers to coniferous trees, though some deciduous trees such as red maple and aspen also have relatively soft wood

species: a type of organism whose members can freely interbreed with each other and genetically are very similar; do not necessarily interact or located together

stagnant: sluggish; not producing to potential

stocking rate: amount of land allotted to each animal for the entire grazable portion of the year

subclimax: successional stage occurring prior to climax stage, but further development is inhibited by some factor(s) other than climate

succession: replacement of one vegetation type or seral stage by another

succulent: having thick fleshy leaves that conserve moisture

sward: surface layer of ground containing a mat of grass and grass roots

terrain: referring to topography

thatch: accumulation of dead grass and leaves on the ground

threatened species: species which are likely to be at the brink of extinction in the near future.

transitional: the process of changing from one form to another

ungulate: a hoofed mammal, such as white-tailed deer, elk, and wild pig

vegetation type: a community or assemblage of plants commonly found in association with each other

woody: referring to trees and shrubs

zooplankton: microscopic animals that float/swim in water