

Georgia Forestry Commission

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- A -

ABSENTEE LANDOWNERS - Landowners who do not live close to their forestland and who find that managing their timber is more difficult because of the distance between residence and their forested property.

ACID RAIN - Rain that has an acidity greater than the "natural" pH of about 5.6. It is formed when sulfur and nitrogen compounds from industrial plants are released into the atmosphere and combine with water vapor to form sulfuric and nitric acids that fall to the earth as "acid" rain or snow.

ACRE - A unit of land measurement, 43,560 square feet or 10 square chains. A square acre measures 208.7 feet on each side.

AD VALOREM TAX - Taxes assessed by the local government on the basis of land or timber value. In Georgia, land is taxed annually and timber is taxed when it is sold or harvested.

AFFORESTATION - The conversion of a different land cover to a forest. Generally it is planting of seedlings in a pasture or cropland.

ANNOSUS ROOT ROT - A fungus that kills trees by decaying the bark and wood of the roots and root collar. It can be spread most easily in the winter months during thinning or other management operations.

ARTIFICIAL REGENERATION - Establishing a new forest by planting seedlings or by direct seeding.

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- B -

BACKFIRE - A fire intentionally set to move against the wind and "back" into an area to subdue a wildfire or for management purposes. .

BASAL AREA - (1) Of a Tree: The cross-sectional area (in square feet) of the tree trunk at breast height (4 1/2 feet above the ground). Basal area of a tree is computed using the following formula: $BA (ft^2) = PI \times r^2$ where: BA = basal area, PI = 3.1415 and r = radius of tree in ft. For example, the basal area of a tree 14 inches in diameter at breast height is about 1 square foot ($BA=3.1415 \times (7/12)^2$). (2) Of an acre of Forest: The sum of the basal area of individual trees on a single acre of forest land. Basal area is used to measure stocking adequacy of a forest stand.

BEDDING - A site preparation technique whereby a small ridge of surface soil is formed to provide an elevated planting or seed bed. It is used primarily in wet areas to improve drainage and aeration for

seedlings.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) - A practice, or combination of practices, that is determined after problem assessment and examination of alternatives, to be most effective, practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by non-point sources to a level compatible with water quality.

BIOMASS - Biomass is a term used to describe woody plants marketed as fuel wood. The total volume of plant material excluding foliage growing on a given area of land. Coppiced hardwood plantations, as well as poor growth cut-over hardwood stands, are often used as sources of biomass fuel.

BOARD FOOT - A lumber measurement defined as being a piece of sawn wood measuring 1 inch X 1 foot X 1 foot. The term is also used as a measure when estimating the amount of lumber in trees, sawlogs, and veneer logs. Board foot volume in a piece of lumber is determined by: $BF = \frac{\text{length in feet} \times \text{width in inches} \times \text{thickness in inches}}{12}$

BOTTOM LANDS - Lands, usually flood plains, adjacent to a river or watercourse. This land is often highly productive for both pine and hardwoods, but can often be difficult to manage and harvest because of drainage problems.

BROAD-BASED DIP - Also called a rolling dip, this is a surface drainage structure specifically designed to tip water out of a dirt road while vehicles maintain normal haul speeds.

BUCK - To cut a harvested tree into sections for merchandising. Pulpwood and sawtimber trees are bucked in different lengths to maximize their product potential.

BUFFER STRIP - A barrier of permanent vegetation established or left undisturbed downslope from disturbed forest areas to filter out sediment from runoff before it reaches a watercourse.

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- C -

CHIEF RANGER - Forestry Commission employee who supervises or suppresses wildfires in counties throughout Georgia, provides forest management information, assists with reforestation activities, encourages proper forest management to timberland owners, and refers such owners to professional foresters.

CHAIN - A unit of measure equal to 66 feet commonly used by foresters. A square chain (66 feet by 66 feet) is equal to 1/10 acre.

CHIP-N-SAW - Generally, pine trees larger than pulpwood size, but smaller than sawtimber trees (often between 9"-12" DBH). These trees are used to produce pulp chips and lumber.

CLEARCUT - A silvicultural system in which all merchantable trees are harvested over a specified area in one operation.

COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND - Forest land which is capable of producing timber for industrial use. Areas qualifying as commercial timberland have the capability of producing in excess of 20 cubic feet (1/3 to 1/2 cord) per acre per year of wood in natural stands.

COMPETITION - The struggle among trees for growth requirements such as sunlight, nutrients, water, and growing space. Competition goes on among both the roots and crowns of trees in the same stand.

CONSERVATION - The protection, improvement, and wise use of natural resources to provide the greatest social, economic, and environmental value for the present and future.

CONTOUR - An imaginary line on the surface of the earth connecting points of the same elevation. A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same elevation.

CONTROLLED BURNING - Any burning that has been started intentionally by a landowner to accomplish some particular purpose, and over which he exercises some surveillance or control.

COPPICE - A forest stand originating primarily from stump sprouts; the coppice method refers to the way these forests are regenerated. Hardwood species typically reproduce by coppicing; pines do not have the ability to sprout from cut stumps.

CORD - A volume measure of wood. A standard when cut and stacked is 4X4X8 feet, or 128 cubic feet of space. Cord volume in standing trees averages 70 to 90 cubic feet, because only the tree volume is measured - not the tree volume plus the empty spaces that form when the wood is stacked. Pulpwood volume is typically measured in cords. A face cord or short cord is 4 feet by 8 feet of any length wood less than 4 feet and is often the measurement used for firewood.

CROOK - A defect in trees consisting of an abrupt bend. Crooks must be removed before cutting the tree for lumber, however they usually do not affect pulpwood merchantability.

CROWN - The branches and foliage of a tree; the upper portion of a tree.

CUBIC FOOT - A wood volume measurement containing one cubic foot of wood. which measures 12" X 12" X 12". A cubic foot of wood actually contains about 6 to 10 usable board feet of lumber rather than 12 board feet because some wood is lost as sawdust and shaving during processing.

CULL TREE - A live tree of merchantable size that is unmerchantable because of defect or decay.

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DECIDUOUS TREE - A tree which loses all its leaves at some time during the year. These are primarily hardwoods such as oak, hickory, ash, and sweetgum. Magnolia and American holly are evergreen hardwoods and not classified as deciduous trees.

DEFECT - Any irregularity or imperfection in a tree, log, or lumber that lowers its quality, strength, or value. Common tree defects include crooked trunk, forked limbs, and heartrot.

DIAMETER BREAST HEIGHT (DBH) - Abbreviation for tree diameter at breast height (4 1/2 feet above the ground). DBH is usually measured in inches.

DIAMETER LIMIT CUTTING - A method of harvesting where all merchantable trees above a specified diameter are harvested. This cutting method is a form of high grading and is not recommended for hardwood stands. It should be used only in certain situations for pine.

DIBBLE - Also called a planting bar. A tool for hand planting tree seedlings. The tool is about 4 1/2 feet in length with a 10-inch blade.

DIRECT SEEDING - A method of artificial regeneration where tree seeds are sown on the surface of a prepared

site.

DOMINANT TREES - Trees with crowns extending above the general level of the stand canopy and receiving full sunlight from above and partly from the side. These are usually the largest trees in the forest.

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EASEMENT - An interest or right to limited use of land granted by the owner to another party. Easements are usually granted to allow passage across property.

ECOLOGY - The science that deals with the relation of plants and animals to their environment and to the site factors that control their distribution and growth.

ENERGY WOOD - Wood that is used for heating or other energy products. It includes forest, industrial, urban, and other wood wastes as well as whole tree chips for energy.

ENVIRONMENT - The existing condition of the surroundings that results from a combination of climate, soil, water, topography, and other plants and animals. An organism's environment influences its form and survival.

EROSION - The process where soil particles are detached and transported by water, wind, and gravity to some point downslope or downstream. Erosion is a major problem on certain type soils where proper agriculture and forestry practices are ignored.

EVEN-AGED FOREST - A forest containing trees that are about the same age (usually within 10 years). Pine plantations are even-aged forests that result from clearcut harvesting and reforestation with seedlings.

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FIREBREAK - A plowed barrier, often made by a crawler tractor pulling a fireplow, designed to stop an advancing wildfire, or to act as a line from which to work during fire fighting efforts.

FIRE SEASON - The period or periods of the year during which fires are likely to occur, spread, and do sufficient damage and otherwise warrant organized fire control. In Georgia, fires occur year-round but predominate in late fall through spring. Forest fires can be particularly damaging during drought periods.

FORESTER - A professionally trained individual who supervises the development, care, and management of forest resources to include timber, soil, water, wildlife, and recreation.

FOREST MANAGEMENT - (1) Giving the forest proper care so it stays healthy and vigorous and provides the products and values the landowner desires. (2) Technical definition: Applying technical forestry principles and practices and business techniques (such as accounting, benefit-cost analysis, etc.) to a forested area.

FOREST STEWARDSHIP - The care and concern for the proper inter-related management of all forest related resources including vegetation, wildlife, soil, water, recreation and aesthetics.

FUSIFORM RUST - A fungus infection that causes cankers, or swellings on the stems and limbs of pine trees. Although sometimes fatal to the infected tree, it often slows growth, provides an entry site for insects, and reduces the value of the infected tree.

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GUM - As applied to naval stores products: The raw product (oleoresin) which exudes from a living pine tree when a wound is made through the trunk into living tissues.

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- H -

HARDPAN - A hardened or cemented soil horizon often found on agricultural lands. Hardpans inhibit seedling development by stopping root growth.

HARDWOOD - A loose term generally including all species of trees that lose their leaves in winter. Some hardwoods, such as magnolia, retain leaves throughout the year. Soft hardwoods are soft-textured hardwoods, such as maple, hackberry, sweetgum, yellow-poplar, magnolia, blackgum, and sycamore. Hard hardwoods are hard-textured hardwoods, such as birch, hickory, oak, dogwood, wild persimmon, and black locust. Hardwood species are often used for furniture, pallets and firewood.

HARVEST - Removing trees on an area to (1) obtain income from the wood products; (2) develop the environment necessary to regenerate the forest.

HEADFIRE - A fire moving with the wind. Head fires can be dangerous in a wildfire situation.

HEARTWOOD - The wood extending from the pith to the sapwood, the cells of which no longer participate in the life processes of the tree. Heartwood may contain phenolic compounds, gums, resins, and other materials that usually make it darker and more decay resistant than sapwood.

HEEL-IN - To store young seedlings prior to planting by placing them in a trench and covering the roots with soil.

HERBICIDE - Any substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent the growth of or destroy unwanted trees, bushes, weeds, algae, and other aquatic weeds.

HIGH GRADING - The practice of harvesting only the biggest and best trees from a stand and leaving poor, low quality trees to dominate the site.

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IMPROVEMENT CUT - A type of intermediate harvest that improves the remaining trees. Improvement cuts remove small, undesirable trees and other vegetation that could harm the stand as it grows. This type of cut may or may not provide a marketable wood product.

INTERMEDIATE TREES - Referring to trees shorter than those in the dominant or co-dominant classes, but with crowns either below or extending into the crown cover formed by co-dominant and dominant trees, receiving a little direct light from above, and none from the sides; usually with small crowns considerably crowded on the sides.

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JUVENILE WOOD - Wood from the first 5 to 20 growth rings commonly located close to the pith (center of the tree) that has low specific gravity, short fiber length, and poor strength characteristics.

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LANDING - A concentration area close to a main road where logs are brought during harvesting operations. Trees are skidded to the landing and then delimbed, bucked, and loaded onto trucks for transport to the mill. Also called bank, brow, and deck.

LITTLELEAF DISEASE - A disease of shortleaf pine, and occasionally of loblolly pine. Infected trees have yellowish foliage; needle length and shoot growth decrease and the affected tree eventually dies.

LOGGING SLASH - Unwanted and generally unmarketable wood such as large limbs, tops, cull logs, and stumps, that remain in the forest after timber harvesting.

LOG RULE - A table providing estimates for the amount of lumber that can be sawed from logs of a given

length and diameter. Three common rules used in the East are Doyle Rule (used for hardwoods), International Rule (the most accurate rule), and Scribner Rule (used most often for pines).

LUMP SUM SALE - A sale where a specified volume of standing trees (stumpage) is sold for a cash price before harvesting begins. With a lump sum sale, a cash settlement is provided that will be paid regardless of the volume of timber actually removed from the tract.

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- M -

MBF - Abbreviation for a thousand board feet. A unit of measure for tree volume or sawed lumber. See also "Board Foot".

MERCHANTABLE HEIGHT - Refers to the height (length) of a merchantable tree from a point six inches above the groundline to a point on the trunk where the diameter becomes too small to obtain a particular product. The product being cut from the timber determines the merchantable height. For example, if the minimum usable diameter of pulpwood is 4 inches, the merchantable height of a pulpwood tree would be its height up to a stem diameter of 4 inches.

MERCHANTABLE TIMBER - A stand of timber of sufficient size and volume per acre to be harvested profitably.

METES AND BOUNDS - A method of designating land location and boundaries used mostly in the eastern United States.

MOISTURE CONTENT - The amount of water contained in the wood, usually expressed as a percentage of the weight of the oven-dry wood.

MORTALITY - Death or destruction of forest trees as a result of competition, disease, insects, wind, fire, or other factors.

MULTIPLE USE FOREST - A forest that is managed for two or more objectives, such as timber production, forage production, wildlife habitat, recreation, and aesthetics.

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NATURAL REGENERATION - Allowing the crop trees to regenerate an area. The most common methods are coppice, seed-in-place, seed trees, and shelterwood.

NATURAL STAND - A stand of trees resulting from natural seed fall or sprouting.

NAVAL STORES - A term applied to the products derived from gum or oleoresin extracted from slash and longleaf pines. These products were historically important items in the stores of wood sailing vessels, but now are

used in a wide variety of products.

NEEDLECAST - A disease of needle bearing conifers. The first indication of the disease is a discoloration and browning of the needles. Trees are seldom killed from this disease.

NON-COMMERCIAL SPECIES - Tree species of poor form, or inferior quality which normally do not develop into trees suitable for wood products.

NON-COMMERCIAL THINNING - A thinning that produces no marketable timber and costs the landowner in time and/or money to conduct. Poorly formed, diseased, and unmarketable trees are removed from the stand to allow more sunlight and growing space for the remaining timber.

NON-POINT POLLUTION - Water pollution which is (1) induced by natural processes, including precipitation, seepage, percolation and runoff; (2) not traceable to any one source or point; and (3) controlled through best management practices.

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OLD GROWTH - Timber from a mature, naturally established forest. Little old growth timber remains in Georgia, since much of the state's forests have been harvested at least once in the past one hundred years. The lumber from old growth is usually straight, free of knots, and of superior quality.

OVERSTOCKING - Where a forest contains too many trees per acre as determined by a tree's size and physical needs to remain healthy. Overstocking reduces growth, causes more trees to die, and makes the stand more susceptible to disease and insects.

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- P -

PESTICIDES - Chemicals used to control forest pests. These include herbicides, insecticides, and silvicides, which are used to kill pests such as weeds, insects, and unwanted trees.

pH - Degree of acidity of water or soil. A pH of 7 on a scale of 1-14 is considered neutral, with any number below 7 being classed as acidic and above 7 being alkaline. A shift in pH by one point implies a ten-fold shift in acidity (or alkalinity), since pH is based on a logarithmic scale.

PINE - A descriptive name given to a particular group of needle bearing trees. In the Southeastern states they are known for their valuable lumber and pulp qualities. Common pines species include loblolly, Virginia, slash, longleaf, and Eastern white pines.

PLANTATION - A forested area established by planting or direct seeding. It is usually made up of a single species, most often pine.

PLANTING MACHINE - A mechanical device used to plant trees. The machine has one or two riders that handle the seedlings. After the machine creates a furrow, the rider inserts a seedling into the opening. The machine then closes the furrow and firms the soil around the planted seedling without stopping. Planters are usually pulled by tractors, skidders, or dozers on well cleared sites.

POINT SOURCE POLLUTION - Water pollution originating from a particular point or points. Chemical dumping, waste disposal, and plant discharges are all examples of point source pollution that harm our streams and ponds.

POLE TIMBER - (1) Trees at least 5 inches in diameter breast height, smaller than sawtimber size, and of good form and vigor. (2) Trees of sufficient size and form to produce power poles when manufactured.

POLLUTION - Substance which makes another substance unclean, dirty, or impure.

PRESCRIBED BURNING - The controlled use of fire to achieve forest management objectives. Prescribed fire can be used to reduce hazardous fuel levels, to control unwanted vegetation, improve visibility, improve wildlife habitat, and prepare soils for seed fall in natural regeneration.

PULPWOOD - Wood cut or prepared primarily to make wood pulp, paper, fiberboard, or other products. Trees over 5" DBH that are unsuitable for sawtimber because of size, crook, or other defect are sold as pulpwood.

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- R -

REFORESTATION - Re-establishing a forest by planting, seeding or natural regeneration methods on a harvested tract of land.

REGENERATION - (1) To re-establish a stand of timber, and (2) The seedlings that have been re-established on a harvested site.

ROTATION (Period) - The period of time to establish, grow and harvest a crop of trees at a specified condition of maturity .

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- S -

S.A.F. - Society of American Foresters. A professional organization of trained foresters.

SALVAGE CUT OR THIN - Harvesting dead trees or those in danger of being killed (by insects, disease, flooding, etc.) to save their economic value.

SANITATION CUT OR THIN - Harvesting or killing trees infected or highly susceptible to insects or diseases to protect the rest of the forest stand.

SAPLINGS - Live trees of commercial species that are 1.0" to 5.0" in diameter at breast height and of good form and vigor.

SAPWOOD - The light colored wood closest to the bark on a tree trunk cross-section. The sapwood is composed of cells and serves to conduct water and minerals from the roots to the crown. Under most conditions, the sapwood is more susceptible to decay than heartwood.

SAWLOG - A log meeting minimum standards of diameter, length, and defect, including logs at least 8' long, sound and straight, and with a minimum diameter inside bark for softwoods of 6" (8" for hardwoods) or other combinations of size and defect.

SAWTIMBER TREES - Trees containing at least one 12' sawlog or two separate 8' sawlogs, and meeting mill specifications for quality. Softwood trees must be at least 9" DBH and hardwood trees 11" DBH to be considered sawtimber trees.

SEEDLING - A young tree less than 1.0 inch in diameter. Seedlings are usually less than three years of age.

SEED TREE HARVEST - A type of regeneration harvest where between 5 and 10 trees are left per acre to provide a seed source on the harvested tract. Trees left for seed should be of superior quality, healthy, and vigorous seed producers. In most cases, the old stand is partially removed in a single harvest cut that leaves only the seed trees standing. These remaining trees are left for three to seven years until the stand of seedlings become established from seed. After the new stand is established, the seed trees are harvested, leaving the young seedlings to produce a new even-aged stand of timber.

SHELTERWOOD CUT - Similar to the seed tree harvest, the shelterwood cut leaves between 30 and 40 trees per acre on a tract to act as a seed source. The greater number of trees reduces the chance of loss or damage through windthrow and insures better seed dispersal. In addition, when the timber is harvested the landowner can expect to receive more money because of the greater volume available for harvest.

SILVICULTURE - The scientific practice of establishing, tending, and reproducing forest stands with desired characteristics. It is based on the knowledge of tree characteristics and environmental requirements.

SITE INDEX - A measure of the productive capacity of a particular site. For natural stands, site index is defined as the total height (in feet) of the dominant trees at 50 years of age. For planted stands, site index is the height of the dominant trees at 25 years of age. Site index is one of the best indicators of forest productivity for a given site and tree species.

SITE PREPARATION - Preparing land for planting, direct seeding, or natural regeneration by clearing, herbicide application, burning, disking, bedding, windrowing, and/or raking.

SOFTWOODS - A tree belonging to the order Coniferales, usually evergreen, cone bearing, and with needles or scalelike leaves such as pine, spruces, firs and cedars; often called "softwoods." Bald cypress is a deciduous conifer.

STAGNATION - Situation occurring when too many trees are inhibited in growth on the same area. Stagnant

stands of timber have high mortality, grow slowly, and produce little or no money for the landowner. Stagnation can be avoided through proper spacing, judicious thinning, and the use of acceptable tree species.

STAND DENSITY - A measure of the amount of timber growing on a site expressed in number of trees, basal area, or volume.

STAND TABLE - A table showing the number of trees by species and diameter class for any given area. Stand tables are developed from information obtained during a timber cruise.

STOCKING - The number of trees in a forest stand. Often, stocking level is compared to the desirable number of trees for best growth and management, such as partially stocked, well stocked or over-stocked.

STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE (SMZ) - An area adjacent to the banks of streams and bodies of open water where extra precaution is necessary in carrying out forest practices in order to protect bank edges and water quality.

STUMPAGE - (1) The value of timber as it stands uncut in the woods; or, in a general sense, the standing timber itself, or (2) The sum paid the owner for the tree as it stands on the stump.

SUCCESSION - The replacement of one plant community by another until ecological stability (climax forest) is achieved. For example, an abandoned farm, if left to nature, would gradually go through different states of vegetative cover and finally reach the climax forest stage after 100 or more years.

SUPPRESSED TREES - Those that have nearly lost the battle for survival. Overtopped by their neighbors and reduced to a pole with only a skimpy crown, they may die within a short time and have usually lost the ability to resume normal growth if released.

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- T -

TALLY - Counting trees, logs, or other products to use later in determining harvestable volume and products.

THINNING - Removing some of the trees from a stand to encourage growth among the remaining timber. Commercial thinnings provide the landowner some financial return, while non-commercial thinnings do not. Methods used for thinning timber include row thinning where every third or fifth row of trees is harvested, selection thinning where only selected trees are harvested, and combination thinning where both row and selection methods are used.

TIMBER CRUISE - To inventory a stand of timber to determine the harvestable products and volume. Cruises should be conducted before timber sales to estimate the value of the stumpage (standing timber).

TIMBER MARKING - Selecting and indicating, usually by a paint spot, trees to be cut or left in a harvesting operation.

TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI) - Improving the quality of a forest stand by removing cull trees and brush, leaving a stand of good quality trees. Cull trees may be removed by chemicals, fire, girdling, or cutting.

TRACT - (1) An acreage containing one forest type; (2) An acreage enclosed by a fence and managed separately; or (3) A segment of forest having undergone some change making it distinctly identifiable. A manageable forest tract is usually 25 acres or more.

TREE LENGTH - An entire tree, with the exception of the stump, unmerchantable top and branches, and foliage. Also relates to a logging (harvesting) system whereby the entire stem to a minimum diameter at the top-end is cut and hauled to the receiving mill.

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UNDERGROWTH - Small trees and shrubby plants growing under a forest canopy.

UNEVEN-AGED - Applied to a stand in which there are considerable differences in the age of the trees usually more than 10 years and in which three or more age classes are represented.

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VENEER - A thin layer or sheet of wood. There are three common types of veneer. These are rotary cut, sawed cut, and sliced cut veneer. Pine veneer is made into plywood, while hardwood veneer is often used for furniture and cabinets.

VOLUME TABLE - A table that provides estimates of the average volume in cords (for pulpwood) or board feet (for sawtimber) in a single tree of a certain diameter and height. Volume tables are used with timber cruise information to develop a timber inventory report.

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WATER BAR - A hump or small dike-type surface drainage structure, properly used only in closing abandoned roads to traffic, on firelines, and abandoned skid trails.

WATER TURNOUT - The extension of an access road's drainage ditch into a vegetated area to provide for the dispersion and filtration of stormwater runoff.

WEIGHT SCALING - A method of determining the volume of a particular forest product such as logs or pulpwood through weighing to determine payment. Trucks that haul the products are weighed on certified scales both before and after unloading. The difference in weight of the truck would be the product weight.

WHOLE-TREE CHIPPING - A harvesting process of converting whole trees into chips for use as pulp material

or fuel for energy. This system can result in substantially lower reforestation costs than conventional harvest systems.

WILDFIRES - Fires burning out of control, regardless of how or why they started. See prescribed burning.

WINDROW - Logging debris and unmerchantable woody vegetation which has been piled in rows to decompose or be burned; or the act of constructing these piles.

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