

## **Glossary of terms related to Interpreting Satellite Images**

**bluff** – A high bank or bold headland, with a broad, precipitous, sometimes rounded cliff face overlooking a plain or body of water, especially on the outside of a stream meander; e.g., a river bluff.  
“GG”

**building** – a usually roofed and walled structure built for permanent use (as for a dwelling)

**\*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

**\*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

**crop field** – area of land used to grow agricultural crops

**\*deciduous:** plants that shed their leaves annually

**dirt/gravel road** – a road with a hard dirt surface: an unpaved road

**\*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 (hard edge and soft edge)

A hard edge has shows a distinct difference where one stage starts and another one ends.

A soft edge has no clear distinction between the stages start or ends.

**\*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

**fencerow** – the land occupied by a fence including the uncultivated area on each side. Fence could be no longer visible.

**\*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

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

**\*hardwoods:** usually refers to non-coniferous trees bearing leaves

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**hedgerow** – a row of shrubs or trees enclosing or separating fields

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

**highway** – a main road, especially connecting major towns and cities

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

**island** – a tract of land surrounded by water and smaller than a continent

**\*interspersions:** the mixing of vegetation types or successional stages; high interspersions represent a lot of mixing; low interspersions represent little mixing

**\*mature forest:** last stage of plant succession, generally characterized as being dominated by large mature deciduous and evergreen trees. “A term generally applied in an economic sense to indicate a forest that has attained the desired harvest size or age. The rate of forest growth diminishes once forests mature. UT”

**oxbow** – A closely looping stream meander having an extreme curvature such that only a neck of land is left between the two parts of the stream. The land enclosed, or partly enclosed, within an oxbow. “GG”

**oxbow lake** – The crescent-shaped, often ephemeral or short-lived body of standing water situated by the side of a stream in the abandoned channel (oxbow) of a meander after the stream formed a neck cutoff and the ends of the original bend were silted up. “GG”

**pasture** – land covered with grass and other low plants suitable for grazing animals, especially cattle or sheep. **Pasture-improved** would be pasture that is lush with the forage of choice and appropriately colored for the specific time of year.

**pond** – (a) A natural body of standing fresh water occupying a small surface depression, usually smaller than a lake and larger than a pool. (b) A small artificial body of water, used as a source of water. “GG”

**powerline right-of-way** – section of ground cleared and maintained for the explicit use of powerlines

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

**\*riparian buffer:** type of corridor that occurs along riparian areas, or waterways. An area of trees, shrubs, forbs and grasses located along streams and ponds.

**river** – a general term for a natural, freshwater surface stream of considerable volume and generally with a permanent base flow, moving in a defined channel toward a larger river, lake, or sea. “GG”

## **Glossary of terms related to Interpreting Satellite Images**

**small stream/creek** – any body of running water that moves under gravity to progressively lower levels, in a relatively narrow but clearly defined channel on the ground surface, in a subterranean cavern, or beneath or in a glacier. “GG”

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

**\*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

**\*thatch**: accumulation of dead grass and leaves on the ground

**\*woody**: referring to trees and shrubs

### **Reference sources for terms:**

WHEP Study Guide: Ecoregions, Management Concepts & Terms, Glossary. Words from the WHEP Glossary and or found in the study guide are noted with an \* by the word. Example: **\*woody**:

Glossary of Landform and Geological Terms – NRCS (2-14-2020)

[https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcs142p2\\_053182&ext=pdf](https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcs142p2_053182&ext=pdf)

Definitions used from this source are noted by “GG” at the end of the definition and word is list using a hyphen. Example: **oxbow** – “GG”

A Glossary of Common Forestry Terms (W428). Sept. 2017 University of Tennessee Extension, Institute of Agriculture. <https://extension.tennessee.edu/publications/Documents/W428.pdf>

Definitions used are noted by “UT” at the end of the definition. Example: **mature forest** – “UT”

Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary>

Words not specifically noted above.

Alphabetical Glossary of Geomorphology (version 1). International Association of Geomorphologist 2014

[http://www.geomorph.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GLOSSARY\\_OF\\_GEOMORPHOLOGY1.pdf](http://www.geomorph.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/GLOSSARY_OF_GEOMORPHOLOGY1.pdf)

No specific definitions used from this source.