

# 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

**interspersation:** the mixing of vegetation types or successional stages; high interspersation represents a lot of mixing; low interspersation 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