

Appendix F - Glossary

Biomass – Any plant material that can be used as an alternative energy source. Some plant materials used for biomass are wood wastes from forestry practices, rice waste, or brush from vegetation management projects.

Broadcast Burn – A prescribed burn method where fire is ignited to a defined project area. Vegetation in this method of burning is not piled but broadcast throughout the project area. Vegetation burned can either be cut or standing.

Canopy - The forest cover of branches and foliage formed by tree crowns.

Chipping - using a mechanical chipper to chip cut vegetation into small chips

Exotic Pest Plant – a non-indigenous plant species, or one introduced to this state that either purposefully or accidentally escapes into the wild where it reproduces on its own either sexually or asexually.

Fire Ladders - Fire ladders are areas where vegetation allows fire to quickly transmit from grass to brush and then to the canopy of trees, producing a high intensity fire with less potential for fire control

Fireline - that portion of the fire upon which resources are deployed and actively engaged in suppression action. In a general sense, the working area around a fire.

Limbing – to remove the lower branches from trees, brush or shrubs in an area to reduce fire ladders. The root structure of the plants is not disturbed.

McLeod – a fire fighting tool used for scraping soil and small roots, and grasses to construct fire line. The tool head is a large hoe approximately 12 inches wide, with one side a solid scraping blade for scraping soil and the other side with metal fingers for scraping vegetation but leaving soil.

Mosaic - to reduce the total volume of vegetation within an area by removing vegetation in a cluster or mosaic pattern.

Multicutting – A vegetation management method where cut vegetation is reduced in size by cutting vegetation into lengths no longer than 6 inches on length. Multicut vegetation is then left on site no greater than 12 inches in depth.

Pile Burn – A prescribed burn method where fire is ignited to individual piles within a project area. Vegetation in this method of burning is cut and piled into stacks within the project area and then burned.

Prescribed Burn – a wildland fire tool that uses the knowledgeable application of fire to a specific unit of land to meet predetermined fire and resource management objectives. Specific prescriptions for burning vegetation are developed for each area based on weather, topography, and fuel type.

Pruning – to selectively cut dead or live branches from trees, brush, or shrubs to reduce the total volume of flammable vegetation from a plant.

Pulaski – a fire fighting tool used for digging out roots and soil to construct fire line. The head has one side with an axe blade and the other side with a hoe blade.

Rate of Spread (ROS) - the speed at which a fire extends its horizontal dimensions, expressed in terms of distance per unit area of time. Generally thought of in terms of a fire's forward movement or head fire rate of spread.

Remote Automatic Weather Station (RAWS) - a weather station at which the services of an observer are not required. A RAWS unit measures selected weather elements automatically and is equipped with telemetry apparatus for transmitting the electronically recorded data via radio, satellite or by a landline communication system at predetermined times on a user-requested basis.

Riparian - an area of land adjacent to a stream, river, lake or wetland that contains vegetation that, due to the presence of water, is distinctly different from the vegetation of adjacent upland areas.

Thinning – to reduce the total volume of trees, brush or shrubs within an area by completely cutting out dead and live plants from the area or to reduce the size or volume of an individual plant by cutting out dead and live branches.

Vegetation Management – The practice of reducing and/or rearranging both the green and dead biomass (vegetation) to reduce fire hazard, to reduce the potential damage associated with wildfire, and to improve environmental habitat. Vegetation management is synonymous with the term “vegetation or fuel reduction”. Many different vegetation management methods may be used to reduce and/or rearrange both green and dead biomass.

Wildfire – a fire conflagration that rapidly burns out of control through vegetation, either in the urban interface or undeveloped areas.

Wildland Fire – a fire occurring that burns through vegetation, either in the urban interface or undeveloped areas.