

CHAPTER 10 VOCABULARY - Sustaining Terrestrial Biodiversity

MILLER LITE, 17th EDITION

ancient forest	See <i>old-growth forest</i> .
applied ecology	See <i>reconciliation ecology</i> .
biodiversity hotspot	An area especially rich in plant species that are found nowhere else and are in great danger of extinction. Such areas suffer serious ecological disruption, mostly because of rapid human population growth and the resulting pressure on natural resources.
clear-cutting	Method of timber harvesting in which all trees in a forested area are removed in a single cutting. Compare <i>selective cutting</i> , <i>strip cutting</i> .
commercial forest	See <i>tree plantation</i> .
controlled burning	Deliberately set, carefully controlled surface fires that reduce flammable litter and decrease the chances of damaging crown fires. See <i>ground fire</i> , <i>surface fire</i> .
crop rotation	Planting a field, or an area of a field, with different crops from year to year to reduce soil nutrient depletion. A plant such as corn, tobacco, or cotton, which removes large amounts of nitrogen from the soil, is planted one year. The next year a legume such as soybeans, which adds nitrogen to the soil, is planted.
crown fire	Extremely hot forest fire that burns ground vegetation and treetops. Compare <i>controlled burning</i> , <i>ground fire</i> , <i>surface fire</i> .
debt-for-nature swap	Agreement in which a certain amount of foreign debt is canceled in exchange for local currency investments that will improve natural resource management or protect certain areas in the debtor country from environmentally harmful development.
deforestation	Removal of trees from a forested area.
ecological restoration	Deliberate alteration of a degraded habitat or ecosystem to restore as much of its ecological structure and function as possible.
ground fire	Fire that burns decayed leaves or peat deep below the ground's surface. Compare <i>crown fire</i> , <i>surface fire</i> .
old-growth forest	Virgin and old, second-growth forests containing trees that are often hundreds—sometimes thousands—of years old. Examples include forests of Douglas fir, western hemlock, giant sequoia, and coastal redwoods in the western United States. Compare <i>second-growth forest</i> , <i>tree plantation</i> .
overgrazing	Destruction of vegetation when too many grazing animals feed too long on a specific area of pasture or rangeland and exceed the carrying capacity of a rangeland or pasture area.
pasture	Managed grassland or enclosed meadow that usually is planted with domesticated grasses or other forage to be grazed by livestock. Compare <i>feedlot</i> .
rangeland	Land that supplies forage or vegetation (grasses, grasslike plants, and shrubs) for grazing and browsing animals and is not intensively managed. Compare <i>feedlot</i> , <i>pasture</i> .
reconciliation ecology	Science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining habitats to conserve species diversity in places where people live, work, or play.

reforestation	Renewal of trees and other types of vegetation on land where trees have been removed; can be done naturally by seeds from nearby trees or artificially by planting seeds or seedlings.
riparian zone	A thin strip or patch of vegetation that surrounds a streams. These zones are very important habitats and resources for wildlife.
second-growth forest	Stands of trees resulting from secondary ecological succession. Compare <i>old-growth forest</i> , <i>tree farm</i> .
selective cutting	Cutting of intermediate-aged, mature, or diseased trees in an uneven-aged forest stand, either singly or in small groups. This encourages the growth of younger trees and maintains an uneven-aged stand. Compare <i>clear-cutting</i> , <i>strip cutting</i> .
strip-cutting	Variation of clear-cutting in which a strip of trees is clear-cut along the contour of the land, with the corridor being narrow enough to allow natural regeneration within a few years. After regeneration, another strip is cut above the first, and so on. Compare <i>clear-cutting</i> , <i>selective cutting</i> .
surface fire	Forest fire that burns only undergrowth and leaf litter on the forest floor. Compare <i>crown fire</i> , <i>ground fire</i> . See <i>controlled burning</i> .
terrestrial	Pertaining to land. Compare <i>aquatic</i> .
tree farm	See <i>tree plantation</i> .
tree plantation	Site planted with one or only a few tree species in an even-aged stand. When the stand matures it is usually harvested by clear-cutting and then replanted. These farms normally raise rapidly growing tree species for fuelwood, timber, or pulpwood. Compare <i>old-growth forest</i> , <i>second-growth forest</i> .
wilderness	Area where the earth and its ecosystems have not been seriously disturbed by humans and where humans are only temporary visitors.