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**Backlog:** a Ministry of Forests term applied to forest land areas where silviculture treatments such as planting and site preparation are overdue. Planting is considered backlog if more than 5 years have elapsed since a site was cleared (by harvesting or fire) in the interior and more than 3 years on the coast of British Columbia.

**Backlog area:** An area, from which the timber was harvested, damaged or destroyed before October 1, 1987 and that in the district manager's opinion is insufficiently stocked with healthy well spaced trees of a commercially acceptable species.

**Backpack sprayer:** spray unit with plastic containers on a backpack frame. Used by individual operator to apply chemicals, such as herbicides.

**Backspar trail:** a bladed or non-bladed pathway over which mobile backspar equipment travels.

**Bank full height:** that elevation which characterizes the cross-sectional area of the active stream channel.

**Bareroot seedling:** stock whose roots are exposed at the time of planting (as opposed to container or plug seedlings). Seedlings are grown in nursery seedbeds and lifted from the soil in which they are grown to be planted in the field.

**Basal area per hectare:** the area of the cross-section of tree stems near their base, generally at breast height and including bark, measured over 1 ha of land.

**Base case:** the current socioeconomic conditions related to the existing forest land management strategy and the expected socioeconomic conditions if the strategy remains unchanged.

**Baseline information:** information collected to provide a standard against which future measurements can be compared.

**Basic silvicultural practices:** maintenance of the productivity of forest sites, restocking of denuded forest lands with commercial tree species within three years for areas west of the Coast Range and five years for areas in the Interior, protection against damage by fire, insects and diseases to predetermined standards.

**Basic silviculture:** harvesting methods and silviculture operations including seed collecting, site preparation, artificial and natural regeneration, brushing, spacing and stand tending, and other operations that are for the purpose of establishing a free growing crop of trees of a commercially valuable species and are required in a regulation, pre-harvest silviculture prescription or silviculture prescription.

**Bearing:** a direction on the ground or on a map defined by the angle measured from some reference direction: this may be true (geographic) north, magnetic north, or grid north.

**Bed load:** particulates that are transported along the channel bottom in the lower layers of streamflow by rolling and bouncing.

**Benefit/cost analysis:** a technique for comparing alternate courses of action by an assessment of their direct and indirect outputs (benefits) and inputs (costs). Benefits and costs are usually defined in economic and social terms.

**Biodiversity (biological diversity):** the diversity of plants, animals, and other living organisms in all their forms and levels of organization, including genes, species, ecosystems, and the evolutionary and functional processes that link them.

**Biogeoclimatic classification system:** a hierarchical classification system of ecosystems that integrates regional, local and chronological factors and combines climatic, vegetation and site factors.

**Biogeoclimatic unit:** part of the biogeoclimatic ecosystem classification system. The recognized units are a synthesis of climate, vegetation and soil data and defined as classes of geographically related ecosystems that are distributed within a vegetationally inferred climatic space.

**Biogeoclimatic zone:** a geographic area having similar patterns of energy flow, vegetation and soils as a result of a broadly homogenous macroclimate.

**Biological control:** the use of biotic agents such as insects, nematodes, fungi, and viruses for the control of weeds and other forest pests.

**Biological herbicide:** a naturally occurring substance or organism which kills or controls undesirable vegetation. Preferred over synthetic chemicals because of reduced toxic effect on the environment.

**Biological legacies:** features which remain on a site or landscape after a natural disturbance. These legacies include live and dead trees, coarse woody debris, soil organic matter, plants, fungi, micro-organisms and seeds.

**Biomass:** the dry weight of all organic matter in a given ecosystem. It also refers to plant material that can be burned as fuel.

**Biosphere:** that part of the earth and atmosphere capable of supporting living organisms.

**Biota:** all living organisms of an area, taken collectively.

**Birddog aircraft:** an aircraft carrying the person (air attack officer) who is directing fire bombing action on a wildfire.

**Bladed trail:** a constructed trail that has a width greater than 1.5 m and a mineral soil cutbank height greater than 30 cm.

**Blowdown (windthrow):** uprooting by the wind. Also refers to a tree or trees so uprooted.

**Bole:** trunk of a tree.

**Bonus bid:** means a bid

- (a) tendered in order to acquire the right to harvest timber under an agreement under this Act,
- (b) calculated on a dollar value per cubic metre of competitive species and forest products harvested and measured in compliance with the agreement, and
- (c) payable from time to time in accordance with the agreement

**Botanical forest products:** prescribed plants or fungi that occur naturally on Crown forest land. There are seven recognized categories: wild edible mushrooms, floral greenery, medicinal products, fruits and berries, herbs and vegetables, landscaping products and craft products.

**Breast height:** the standard height, 1.3 m above ground level, at which the diameter of a standing tree is measured.

**Broadcast burning:** a controlled burn, where the fire is intentionally ignited and allowed to proceed over a designated area within well-defined boundaries, for the reduction of fuel hazard after logging or for site preparation before planting. Also called slash burning.

**Browse:** shrubs, trees and herbs that provide food for wildlife.

**Brush rake:** a blade with teeth at the bottom, attached to a cat or skidder, used in mechanical site preparation. It penetrates and mixes soil and tears roots.

**Brushing:** a silviculture activity done by chemical, manual, grazing, or mechanical means to control competing forest vegetation and reduce competition for space, light, moisture, and nutrients with crop trees or seedlings.

**Bucking:** cutting a felled tree into specified log lengths for yarding and hauling; also, making any bucking cut on logs.

**Buffer strip:** a strip of land (often including undisturbed vegetation) where disturbance is not allowed or is closely monitored to preserve or enhance aesthetic and other qualities along or adjacent to roads, trails, watercourses and recreation sites.

**Buffer zone:** see Pesticide buffer zone.

**Burning permit:** a permit required under Section 110 of the Forest Act, municipal bylaw, or letter-patent for authorizing open burning within 1 km of a forest during the fire season, for purposes other than cooking or obtaining warmth.