

I

Immature: trees or stands that have grown past the regeneration stage, but are not yet mature.

Immature timber: stands of timber where the age of the leading species in a stand is less than the specified cutting age. Cutting ages are established to meet forest management objectives. Usually stands with lodgepole pine and whitebark pine or a deciduous species as the leading species are considered as immature timber when the stand age is less than 81 years. Otherwise, all stands having conifers other than lodgepole pine and whitebark pine as the leading species are immature when the stand age is less than 121 years.

Impact assessment: A study of the potential future effects of resource development on other resources and on social, economic and/or environmental conditions.

Improvement cutting: the removal of trees of undesirable species, form or condition from the main canopy of the stand to improve the health, composition and value of the stand.

Increment: the increase in diameter, basal area, height, volume, quality or value of individual trees or stands during a given period.

Increment borer: a tool used to extract a core of wood from a living tree for the purpose of studying the annual growth rings of the tree.

Increment core: that part of the cross section of a tree extracted by an increment borer. Used to determine tree age and growth pattern.

Incremental silviculture: a Ministry of Forests term that refers to the treatments carried out to maintain or increase the yield and value of forest stands. Includes treatments such as site rehabilitation, conifer release, spacing, pruning, and fertilization. Also known as intensive silviculture. See Basic silviculture.

Indicator species: species of plants used to predict site quality and characteristics.

Industrial operation: operations such as land clearing, timber harvesting, timber processing, mechanical site preparation and other silvicultural treatments, mining, and road construction.

Initial attack: the action taken to halt the spread or potential spread of a fire by the first fire fighting force to arrive at the fire.

Initial mature inventory: that portion of the existing total mature forest inventory which is available for harvest. This portion reflects all management constraints that are necessary to protect the environment and other forest uses and varies with the constraints identified for each option.

Inner gorge: a stream reach or portion of stream that is bounded by steep hillslopes (> 40% sideslope) and terminates upslope into more gentle topography.

Inoperable lands: lands that are unsuited for timber production now and in the foreseeable future by virtue of their: elevation; topography; inaccessible location; low value of timber; small size of timber stands; steep or unstable soils that cannot be harvested without serious and irreversible damage to the soil or water resources; or designation as parks, wilderness areas, or other uses incompatible with timber production.

In sloping: shaping the road surface to direct water onto the cut side of the road. Integrated resource management (IRM): the identification and consideration of all resource values, including social, economic, and environmental needs, in land use and development decision making. It focuses on resource

use and land use and management, and is based on a good knowledge of ecological systems, the capability of the land, and the mixture of possible benefits.

Integrated resource use: a decision making process whereby all resources are identified, assessed and compared before land use or resource management decisions are made. The decisions themselves, whether to approve a plan or carry out an action on the ground, may be either multiple or single use in a given area. The application of integrated resource management results in a regional mosaic of land uses and resource priorities which reflect the optimal allocation and scheduling of resource uses.

Intensive silviculture: see Incremental silviculture.

Interior: the geographic area east of the Cascade Mountains, as officially delineated by the Cascade Mountains Administrative Line through British Columbia from Washington state to Alaska, including the portions of the Kalum Forest District and Cariboo Forest Region lying west of the line, but excluding the lower Fraser River area south of Hell's Gate (south of Boston Bar), taking in the Coquihalla, Silverhope, and Skagit River drainages lying east of the line.

Interior conditions: at a point where edge effects no longer influence environmental conditions within a patch, interior conditions are achieved. For coastal B.C. forests, the edge effect is generally felt for a distance equivalent to 2 to 4 times average tree height into the stand. The effects usually involve light intensity, temperature, wind, relative humidity and snow accumulation and melt. See Edge effect.

Intermediate: intermediate trees have crowns below, but still extending into, the general level of the canopy and receive a little direct light from above but none from the sides.

Interpretive forest site: a designated forest site and ancillary facilities developed by the Ministry of Forests to interpret, demonstrate, or facilitate the discussion of the natural environment, forest practices, and integrated resource management.

Intertree distance: the distance between tree boles, usually used in the context of thinning. Recommended guidelines for intertree distances are established for different thinning programs depending on site variables, the species and age of trees, and management objectives.

Inventory, forest: a survey of a forest area to determine such data as area, condition, timber, volume and species for specific purposes such as planning, purchase, evaluation, management or harvesting.