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Objective: the end result(s) that must be achieved through management at any given administrative level. Objectives are quantified and indicate time and agency responsibility.

Old growth: old growth is a forest that contains live and dead trees of various sizes, species, composition, and age class structure. Old-growth forests, as part of a slowly changing but dynamic ecosystem, include climax forests but not sub-climax or mid-seral forests. The age and structure of old growth varies significantly by forest type and from one biogeoclimatic zone to another.

Old-growth attributes: structural features and other characteristics of old-growth forests, including: large trees for the species and site; wide variation in tree sizes and spacing; accumulations of large dead standing and fallen trees; multiple canopy layers; canopy gaps and understory patchiness; elements of decay such as broken or deformed tops or trunks and root decay; and the presence of species characteristic of old growth.

Old-growth management areas: areas which contain, or are managed to replace, specific structural old-growth attributes and which are mapped out and treated as special management areas.

Operable forest: that portion of the production forest that, under current market conditions, can be harvested at a profit.

Operable land: all lands that are not considered inoperable lands (see Inoperable lands).

Operable timber: see also Timber operability. Available timber that can be economically logged with present harvesting methods after consideration of access, timber quality and market price.

Operability line: a line drawn on a map to differentiate between areas that are operable and those that are not, given status quo harvesting and reforestation technology. Inoperable areas are not economically viable to harvest without seriously impairing the site or other resource values. The operability line is used to states that within the context of area-specific management guidelines, operational plans detail the logistics for development. Methods, schedules, and responsibilities for accessing, harvesting, renewing and protecting the resource are set out to enable site-specific operations to proceed. Operational plans include forest development plans, logging plans, access management plans, range-use plans, silviculture prescriptions, stand management prescriptions and five year silviculture plans.

Option: a set of assumptions representing a possible management direction. Options are constructed as a normal part of a planning process in order to provide a framework for analysis and to facilitate management decision-making.

Organic soil: soil containing a high proportion (greater than 20 or 30 percent) of organic matter.

Orthophoto: a completely rectified copy of an original photograph. All variations in scale and displacements, due to relief, have been eliminated, hence the name ortho (correct) photography. Orthophoto and orthophoto map are synonymous, an orthophoto is, very simply, a photo map.

Outslope: to shape the road surface to direct water away from the cut slope side of the road.

Overlanding: placing road construction fill over organic soil, stumps and other plant materials, corduroy or geotextiles, any of which is required to support the fill.

Overlay: a transparent sheet (either clear or mylar matte film material) accompanying a map, on which information, colouring, or symbols are entered so that when the overlay is placed on the map the effect is identical to having entered the overlay information on the map, itself.

Overmature: in even-aged management, those trees or stands past the mature stage.

Overstorey: that portion of the trees in a forest of more than one storey forming the upper or uppermost canopy layer.

Overtopped: trees with crowns entirely below the general level of the crown cover receiving little or no direct light from above or from the sides.

Overtopping: vegetation higher than the favored species, as in brush or deciduous species shading and suppressing more desirable coniferous trees.