

7.0 GLOSSARY

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Methods or techniques, based on known science, that have consistently shown results superior to those achieved by other means. BMPs are not static and can evolve to become better as knowledge of site-specific conditions increases and operational improvements are discovered. BMPs can vary depending on existing and/or proposed conditions as well as project objectives and compliance requirements.

Biodiversity (biological diversity): The variety of life and its processes, including the variety in genes, species, ecosystems, and the ecological processes that connect everything in the system.

Canopy bulk density: An estimate of the mass of vegetation in the tree canopy; used to determine how efficiently fuels burn in the canopy and whether canopy fires are torching (passive) or active.

Canopy cover: The percentage of ground covered by woody vegetation, which affects fuel moisture microclimate through absorbing insolation from the sun.

Canopy height: An estimate of the height of woody vegetation, including the canopy cover and the canopy base height. Both estimates are used to calculate overall canopy volume, as a measure of aerial fuel density, and affect ember lofting and distance of ember transport.

Chopping: The most basic mechanical treatment where weight alone is used to reposition fuels close to the ground and typically used to prepare the area for burning.

Community base map: A geographic information systems product that can include streets, topography and vegetation. For purposes of the CWPP, a community base map should include areas at risk, critical infrastructure, and the community's WUI zone.

Community protection: Actions or programs undertaken for the purpose of protecting human lives, property, and infrastructure.

Critical infrastructure: Physical assets essential for the functioning of a society and economy.

Critical Environmental Feature: Features which have been determined to be of critical importance to the protection of one or more environmental resources. They include such features as bluffs, canyon rimrocks, caves, faults and fractures, seeps, sinkholes, springs, and wetlands.

Crown fire: A fire that travels from treetop (crown) to treetop in dense stands of trees.

Defensible Space: The area around a structure where fuels and vegetation are treated, cleared or reduced to slow the spread of fire towards a structure, or away from it. Defensible space provides room for firefighters to do their jobs.

Disking: An efficient and cost-effective surface fuel management practice commonly used to create early successional plant communities. It inhibits woody growth, promotes favored seed-producing plants, reduces plant residue, increases bare ground, and increases insect abundance.

Fire Adapted Community: A community of humans and infrastructure that can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. It consists of informed and prepared citizens collaboratively planning and taking action to safely coexist with wildland fire (WFLC 2012).

Fire Frequency (fire return interval): How often fire burns a given area; often expressed in terms of fire return intervals (e.g., fire returns to a site every five to 15 years).

Fuel loading: The amount of fuel present, expressed quantitatively in terms of weight of fuel per unit area. This may be available fuel (consumable fuel) or total fuel and is usually dry weight. (NWCG definition)

Hazardous fuel: The combustible material in trees and other vegetation and organic debris that increases the potential for uncharacteristically intense wildland fire.

Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA): Signed into law in 2003, this act authorizes Community Wildfire Protection Plans as a tool to reduce hazardous fuels and maintain healthy forests.

Home hardening: The retrofitting process that reduces a home's risk to wildfire.

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ): An area of up to 200 feet surrounding a home.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized, on-scene, all-hazards incident management approach for integration of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures and communications responding to an emergency. ICS is flexible and can be used across jurisdictions for incidents of any type, scope and complexity.

Manual treatment: A brush control that involves selective removal of an individual stem or stems by hand tools rather than broad-scale removal by heavy equipment.

Mastication: A surface fuel modification technique involving the use of heavy machinery to reduce standing live and dead shrubs and tree saplings into small chunks. Types of mechanical mastication include grinding, crushing, shredding, chipping, mulching, and chopping of fuel that can reduce fire line intensity and the rate of fire spread.

Mechanical treatment: The use of machines to accomplish objectives essential to the protection of communities, resources, and the ecosystem.

Mitigation Action Plan: A document that outlines a procedure for reducing adverse environmental impacts.

Mulching: The cutting, chopping, or grinding of vegetation into particles usually left on-site as mulch.

Prescribed fire: A managed fire ignited to meet specific fuel reduction or other resource objectives. Prescribed fires are generally conducted in accordance with written prescribed fire plans.

RSG: Ready, Set, Go!

Spot fire: A fire caused by embers blown downwind from the main fire to receptive fuels.

Structural ignitability: Factors that contribute to how easily a home will ignite when wildfire threatens. Examples of these factors include design, construction materials and immediate surroundings.

Sustainability: The ability of an ecosystem to maintain, over time, ecological process and functions, biological diversity, and productivity.

Thinning: A mechanical treatment used to modify the fuel structure and reduce CBD in forests that have become denser due to fire exclusion.

Vegetative succession: the change in the composition or structure of an ecological community over time which is more-or-less predictable and orderly, and by which the existing trajectory can be manipulated by some form of disturbance (e.g., manual, mechanical, fire, chemical, grazing) to achieve a specific result.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI): Areas where human habitation and development meet or are intermixed with wildland fuels (vegetation).