



A Glossary

Both New and Old School

Editor's Note: *This is a "real" U.S. Forest Service Employee's Glossary. The genesis of this little project was cocktails with Mike DaLuz in a bar overlooking Washington, D.C. a number of years ago. He believed this would be a way to transfer that "old-timer" knowledge to the youngsters in the outfit and shortcut their transition. Please take a peek and send suggestions to the Rendezvous about acronyms and jargon you used during your time in the outfit. We gladly accept edits, comments, corrections and even notes to us on a speed memo. When we're done, we'll share Mikey's vision with the workin' folks at the USFS.*

A.

Accessibility:

The degree to which a product, device, service, or environment is available to as many people as possible. Accessibility can be viewed as the "ability to access" and benefit from some system or entity.

Acre foot:

A water volume measurement equal to the amount of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot – approximately 326, 000 gallons.

Age class:

An interval of years, commonly 20, into which trees are grouped for management. Example: 1-20 years, 21-40 years.

AFMO:

Assistant Fire Management Officer

Air Attack:

Refers to the supervisor in the air (usually in a fixed-wing aircraft) who supervises the process of attacking the wildfire from the air, including fixed-wing air tankers, helicopters, and any other aviation resources assigned to the fire.

Air Tanker:

Air tankers or water bombers are fixed-wing aircraft fitted with tanks that can be filled on the ground at an air tanker base or, in the case of flying boats and amphibious aircraft, by skimming water from lakes, reservoirs, or large rivers.

AL:

Annual Leave

AMP:

Allotment Management Plan

AMR:

Appropriate Management Response

AMS:

Agricultural Marketing Service - USDA

AO:

Administrative Officer

APHIS:

Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service – USDA

AQM:

Acquisition Management Staff Unit

ARPNG:

Arapaho Roosevelt and Pawnee National Grasslands

ASC:

Albuquerque Service Center

ASQ:

Allowable Sale Quantity

ATV:

All Terrain Vehicle

AUM:

Animal Unit Month

AWOL:

Absence Without Official Leave

B.

Bambi Bucket:

A bucket suspended on a cable carried by a helicopter to deliver water for aerial firefighting. Each bucket has a release valve on the bottom that is controlled by the helicopter crew. Developed by Canadian Don Arney and produced by SEI Industries since 1983.



Bambi bucket

Basal Area:

Used in forest management that defines the area of a given section of land that is occupied by the cross-section of tree trunks and stems at their base.

Bear Wear:

Any of the variety of coats and hats and pins and blankets and a host of items associated with Smokey Bear.

BFR:

A really big rock – as in “I hit a BFR with my rig.”

Bladder Bag:

A heavy-duty, collapsible, five-gallon capacity yellow vinyl tank bag with a brass, hand-operated pump, 1/4” hose, and padded shoulder straps. Weighs 4-1/2 lbs. empty.



BIA:

Bureau of Indian Affairs

BIFC:

Boise Interagency Fire Center – (old school) now known as NIFC.

Biomass:

Biological material from living, or recently living organisms, most often referring to plants or plant-derived materials.

BIG:

Blacks in Government

BLI:

Budget Line Item

Blowdown:

A tree or stand of timber that has been blown down by the wind.

Board Foot:

A specialized unit of measure for the volume of lumber in the United States and Canada. It is the volume of a one-foot length of a board one foot wide and one inch thick.

BOR:

Bureau of Reclamation – Interior Department

BLM:

Bureau of Land Management – Interior Department (now often Black Lives Matter).

Brush Hook:

A fire tool with a single-edge blade that is 12” long, 3” wide on a 36” curved wooden axe handle. An excellent clearing tool.

C.

Cache:

A hiding place especially for concealing and preserving provisions or implements. In fire, caches are located in every geographical region of the United States with a shared national inventory value of over \$91 million. These resources are shared and moved throughout the wildfire season to allow us to annually issue supplies and equipment to a variety of incidents throughout the year.

Canopy:

In a forest, the branches from the uppermost layer of trees; on rangeland, the vertical projection downward of the aerial portion of vegetation.

CDOW:

Colorado Division of Wildlife – now the Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

CE:

Categorical Exclusion

CEQ:

Council on Environmental Quality

CFO:

Chief Financial Officer

CFTR:

Cooperative Forestry and Tribal Relations

CFR:

Code of Federal Regulations. A set of regulations that have been published in the Federal Register, and are used to govern Forest Service Activities.

CIP:

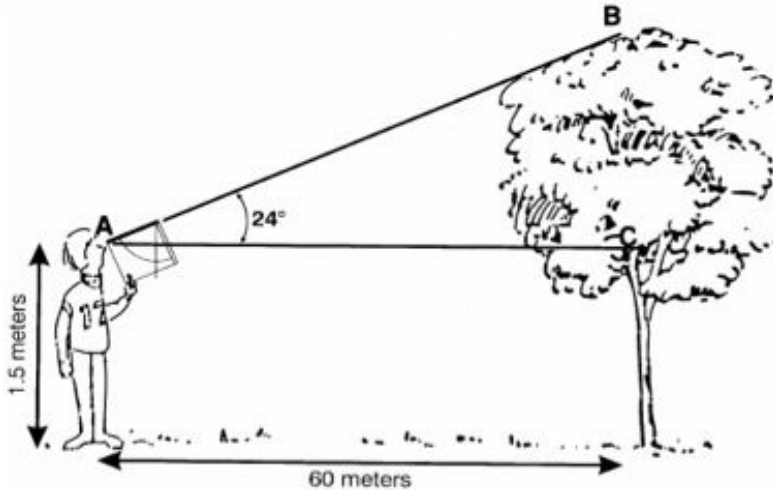
Capital Investment Program.

Clearcutting:

A controversial forestry/logging practice in which most or all trees in an area are uniformly cut down.

Clinometer:

An instrument for measuring angles of slope (or tilt), elevation or depression of an object with respect to gravity.



Climax:

It's not what you think!
The final or mature seral stage in secondary plant succession that persists for an indefinite period of time if no major disturbances occur.

COB:

Close of Business – usually in the Washington Office.

COLA:

Cost of Living Adjustments – might be just for old timers.

Combi tool:

The firefighter's version of a military entrenching tool. A small shovel head which can be folded straight for use as a shovel or folded at 90 degrees for use as a scraping tool or hoe on a 5 foot handle.

Commercial Use:

The use of products from the National Forest to make a profit.

Cone Crop:

Refers to the interval at which conifer species produce good cone crops.

Cord:

A stack of wood that contains 128 cubic feet. Measurements are usually four feet high – four feet wide and eight feet long. A pickup truck will hold about one-half cord of wood.

Corks:

Also known as caulk boots, are leather nail-soled boots worn by lumberjacks in the timber-producing regions of the Pacific Northwest and Canada.

CPW:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CR:

Civil Rights Staff Unit

C-Rats:

An individual canned, pre-cooked, or prepared wet ration often issued to firefighters when fresh food is in short supply.

Cruiser Vest:

Cruising vests are designed to accommodate a variety of equipment. Many styles of vests are available that suit the many types of work that are being done. Vest pockets are designed to fit the various pieces of equipment used for a variety of tasks.



CUI:

Controlled Undisclosed Information

CUPOLA:

In design work, a feature added to the layout so that the boss can make an edit and feel like they contributed.

D.

DBH:

Diameter at Breast Height

DEIS:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Desired Future Condition:

A portrayal of the land or resource condition that is expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

Developed Recreation Site:

These are sites that provide for visitor comfort, convenience and/or educational opportunities.

DG:

Data General (former Forest Service computer system)...also abbreviated GD-DG when it was working poorly.



Directional Drilling:

The practice of drilling non-vertical wells.

Dispersed Recreation:

Dispersed means no services; such as trash removal, and little or no facilities; such as tables and fire pits.

DOA:

Dead on Arrival

DOB:

Date of Birth

DOI:

Department of Interior

DOJ:

Department of Justice

DOL:

Department of Labor

DOT:

Department of Transportation

DR:

District Ranger

DRF:

Deputy Regional Forester

Drip Torch:

A tool used in wildfire suppression, controlled burning, and other forestry applications to intentionally ignite fires.



Proper use of a drip torch.

Dwarf Mistletoe:

Mistletoes are parasitic flowering plants that can infect and damage many species of trees.

E.

EA:

External Affairs Staff Unit or Environmental Assessment or Environmental Analysis or Environmental Audit

Ecosystem:

A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

EE:

Environmental Education

EEO:

Equal Employment Opportunity

EIS:
Environmental Impact Statement
ENG:
Engineering Staff Unit
EPA:
Environmental Protection Agency

F.

FACA:
Federal Advisory Committee Act passed in 1972 to create an orderly procedure by which Federal agencies may seek advice and assistance from citizens and experts.
Also, the Florida Athletic Coaches Association
FAM:
Fiscal and Accounting Management
FAX:
Facsimile Transmission



*Hewlett-Packard
Model 1040 Fax
Machine.*

FEDSTRIP:
Federal Standard Requisitioning and Issue Procedures
FIO:
Fire Information Officer - possibly the most valuable person on a fire team.
FLT:
Forest Leadership Team
FMHA:
Farmers Home Administration
FOIA:
Freedom of Information Act
FONSI:
Finding of No Significant Impact. Has nothing to do with "Happy Days" television show.
Forb:
Broad-leafed, herbaceous, nongrass-like plant species other than true grasses, sedges, and non-woody plants; fleshy leafed plants; having little or no woody material.

FOUO:
For Official Use Only
FPO:
Forest Protection Officer or Fire Prevention Officer
FS:
Forest Service – also USFS
FSH:
Forest Service Handbook
FS-INFO:
Forest Service Information Library Service
FSM:
Forest Service Manual
FTE:
Full Time Equivalent
FWS:
Fish and Wildlife Service – also USFWS and F&WS
Fish Squeezer:
Slang term for a fisheries biologist.

G.

GA:
Grants and Agreements Staff Unit or Graphics Artist
Gabion:
A cage, cylinder or box filled with rocks, concrete, or sometimes sand and soil for use in civil engineering, road building, military applications and landscaping.

*Wire
Gabion
Basket*



GIS:
Geographical Information System
GMUG:
Grand Mesa, Uncompaghre and Gunnison National Forests...also Gunny-Munk..Gee-Mug.
GPO:
Government Printing Office
GPS:
Global Positioning System

Green and Gray:

The color of the Forest Service vehicles back in the old days. Gray tops ended in the 1970s.

Green Underwear:

Slang for extreme loyalty to the Forest Service.

GSA:

General Services Administration

GSC:

Gunnison Service Center

H.

Henweigh:

About 2 pounds...in answer to the question; "What's a henweigh?"

Helispot:

A natural or improved takeoff and landing area intended for temporary or occasional helicopter use.

Hot Shot:

A member of an elite handcrew consisting of 20-22 wildland firefighters, with specific qualifications to provide leadership for initial-attack and extended-attack on wildland fires across the nation.

Hot Spot:

A particular active part of a fire.

HR:

Human Resources

HRP:

Human Resources Program

HUD:

Housing and Urban Development

I.

IC:

Incident Commander

ICP:

Incident Command Post

I & E:

Information and Education – (old school)

IDP:

Individual Development Plan

IDT:

Interdisciplinary Team

IF:

International Forestry

Indian:

An early firefighting metal backpack pump made by the Indian Company. Irreverent slang was/is "piss pump."



Indian Backpack Pump. "D. B. Smith & Company. Utica, N.Y., U.S.A." circa 1930s.

J.

Job code:

An accounting number that you write down on your Time and Attendance

JCCC:

Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center



Pine Ridge Civilian Conservation Center in Chadron Nebraska.

JHA:

Job Hazard Analysis

J-Root:

An improperly planted seedling that takes a J-shaped configuration in the planting hole. Such seedlings often die prematurely, grow poorly, and are susceptible to windthrow.

K.

Kicker:

As in “cargo kicker.” Airplanes loaded with cargo are flown into areas accessible only by air, and cargo is then "kicked" out the door and dropped or parachuted to locations on the ground.

Kiosk:

A small, open or glass enclosed booth or building such as the fee-collection and information booth at a forest entrance station.

Knot bumper:

Slang for a sawyer

KSA:

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

KV:

Knutsen-Vandenburg (Act)

L.

Ladder Fuel:

Vegetation located below the crown level of forest trees, which can carry fire from the forest floor to tree crowns. Ladder fuels may be low growing tree branches, shrubs, or smaller trees.

LSC:

Lakewood Service Center

LEI:

Law Enforcement and Investigation Staff Unit

LEO:

Law Enforcement Officer

Litter:

The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface, which is essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetation material such as stems, leaves, twigs, and fruits. Also according to Woodsy Owl - trash.

Logs Chief:

The person in charge of Logistics on an incident.

Lookout:

A person designated to detect and report fires from a vantage point. Or the building - a lookout station.

LT:

Leadership Team

LWCF:

Land and Water Conservation Fund

LWOP:

Leave With Out Pay

M.

M:

Thousand

Manual:

The Forest Service Manual and Handbooks are internal agency guidance designed to assist employees in carrying out their duties under the laws and regulations.

M&IE:

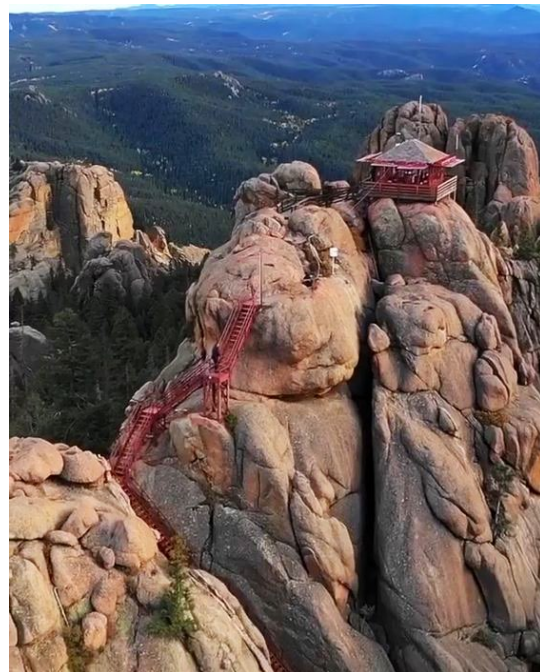
Meals and Incidental Expenses

MBF:

Thousand Board Feet

Med-Bow Rountt:

The Medicine Bow and Rountt National Forests and Thunder Basin National Grassland



Devil's Head Lookout Tower - Pike National Forest.

Meetings:

Where minutes are taken and hours are lost.

MIST:

Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics. A set of guidelines prescribing safety, fire line procedures, tools, and equipment that has the least impact on the environment during suppression and mop-up phases of fire

MUSYA:

Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act

MVA:

Motor Vehicle Accident

N.

NEPA:

National Environmental Policy Act

NF:

National Forest

NFC:

National Finance Center

NFMA:

National Forest Management Act

NFS:

National Forest System

NICHE:

A place or activity for which a thing is best fitted.

NIFC:

National Interagency Fire Center (old school) – formerly BIFC – Boise Interagency Fire Center

NICC:

The National Interagency Coordination Center is the focal point for coordinating the mobilization of resources for wildland fire and other incidents throughout the United States.

NLT:

National Leadership Team

NOAA:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPS:

National Park Service – Interior Department

NWCG:

The National Wildfire Coordinating Group

O.

OGC:

Office of General Counsel

Old Growth:

Refers to a patch or stand condition, not individual trees. However, old trees can occur in smaller or larger spatial configurations, namely tree groups or patches, and forests or landscapes that may also be termed old growth....or a disparaging term for employees who stay too long in their job.

OPM:

Office of Personnel Management

P.

Parkie:

A loving term for National Park Service employees.

P-Code:

Fire accounting slang

Pebble Count:

A method that hydrologists use to study streams. They reach down and pick up the first grain touched. Diameter is measured for the average dimension and recorded.



Performing a pebble count - Gallatin River Task Force.

PEER:

Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility

Permittee:

Any holder of a permit from the U.S. Forest Service. The term "permittee" is seldom if ever applied to the holder of a motor vehicle or trailer permit, who is more aptly termed a "visitor."

Pickle Suit:

Humorous name for the Forest Service uniform

Piker Bell:

The Pike and San Isabel National Forests

PII:

Personally Identifiable Information



Pine Cone Club:

The Forest Service wives club in the 70s, 80s and 90s in Denver, CO.

PR:

Physical Resources Staff Unit

Prescribed Fire:

Prescribed fire is any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. Prescribed fire is intended to mimic natural fire regimes.

Primitive Area

Any of a number of tracts within the National Forests, set aside for preservation in natural condition; no alteration or development, beyond measures for fire prevention, being permitted.

PSICC:

Pike and San Isabel and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands



Pulaski:

The firefighter tool of choice named after Big Ed Pulaski. He is widely credited for the invention of the Pulaski in 1911. A combination hand tool with a mattock for digging or grubbing on one side and an axe for chopping on the other.

Ed Pulaski outside the tunnel where he led his men to safety during the Big Burn in August of 1910 near Wallace, Idaho.



A Pumpkin Tank is the standard in helicopter bucketing operations. The Pumpkin Tank also serves as a portable water reservoir for fire departments and forest fire control agencies.

Pumpkin:

A big orange colored water container that helicopters dip water out of on a fire.

Public Relations:

Arguably the most important part of the Forest Service. The state of mutual esteem, interest, cooperation, and friendship existing between the public and the Forest Service.

Q.

Quad:

A "quadrangle" is a topographic map produced by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) covering the United States. The maps are usually named after local physiographic features.

Quality Class:

Annual change in volume of live sawtimber trees plus total volume of trees reaching sawtimber size, minus volume losses resulting from natural causes.

Quality of Life:

Refers to the satisfaction people feel for the places where they live (or may visit) and for the places they occupy as part of that experience.

Quartersawn Lumber:

Another term for edge-grained lumber.

QSI:

Quality Step Increase

R.

RARE I and RARE II:

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation

Rare Earth:

XXXXXXXXXXXX

RAWS:

Remote Automated Weather Station

RBO:

Regional Budget Office

RCSC:

Rapid City Service Center

REC RACK:

Recreation Resource Advisory Council

Retiree:

A person who has retired from employment.

RF:

Regional Forester

RFT:

Regional Forester Team

RHRW:

Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources

RI:

Resource Information Staff Unit

RIG:

Slang for a motor vehicle.

Riparian Area:

An area with distinctive soils and vegetation between a stream, or other body of water, and the adjacent upland area consisting of vegetation that requires free, or unbound, water for survival.

RMACC:

Rocky Mountain Area Coordination Center in Lakewood, Colorado provides safe, cost effective, and timely response of national and area resources for all aspects of wildland fire management activities and other emergency management activities within the Rocky Mountain Area.

ROD:

Record of Decision

ROSS:

Resource Ordering System

RR:

Renewable Resources Staff Unit

S.

Seral:

Refers to the stages that plant communities go through during the progression in structure and composition over time. Development stages have characteristic structure and plant species composition.

SFAM:

Safety, Fire and Aviation Management

Shelterwood:

The cutting of most trees, leaving those needed to produce sufficient shade to produce a new age class in a moderated microenvironment.



Old Green and Grey - circa 1959.

Shot Crew:

A 20 person Hot Shot fire crew.

Silviculturist:

A specialist who knows everything about trees.

Sit Report:

The Incident Management Situation Report for fires in the United States.

Six Pack:

A vehicle holding six passengers - usually a pickup truck with an expanded cab.

SL:

Sick Leave

Slurry:

Retardant usually dropped from airplanes or helicopters to slow the progress of a fire.

Smokey:

As in "The Bear."

Smokejumper:

A firefighter who parachutes into locations otherwise difficult to reach. These folks jump out of a perfectly good airplane into a burning forest.

SNAFU:

Situation Normal - All Fouled Up

SST:

Sweet Smelling Toilets

Swamper:

The second person on a tree cutting crew who watches for danger and clears the brush away from the feller.

T.

T and A:

Time and Attendance

TES:

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive

Timber Beast:

Slang term for a Forester.

TSI:

Timber Stand Improvement

TYPE 1:

National and State Level – a Federally or State-certified team; is the most robust IMT with the most training and experience.

TYPE 2:

National and State Level – a Federally or State-certified team; has less training, staffing and experience than Type 1 IMTs, and is typically used on smaller scale national or state incidents

TYPE 3:

State or Metropolitan Area Level – a standing team of trained personnel from different departments, organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions within a state or DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region, activated to support incident management at incidents that extend beyond one operational period

TWAIN:

Technology Without An Interesting Name

U.

Understory:

The trees occupying the lower level of a stand that has at least two size and age classes.

USDA:

United States Department of Agriculture

USDI:

United States Department of Interior



Staffer:

A staff worker for a Congressional Member

Stick (of Jumpers):

Typically a load of smokejumpers consists of a half-dozen people, depending on the size of the aircraft. They typically jump in "sticks" of two to four firefighters at a time.

USFS:
United States Forest Service



USFWS:
United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS:
United States Geological Survey

V.

Volunteer:
Generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, this activity produces a feeling of self-worth and respect; however, there is no financial gain. Volunteering is also renowned for skill development, socialization, and fun.

Voluntold:
When your boss tells you that you *will* volunteer for a task.

W.

Watershed:
A watershed is the area of land where all of the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same place.

Watertender:
A water tender, also known as a tanker in some regions, is a specialized firefighting apparatus designed for transporting water from a water source to a fire scene.

Wattles:
Long, tubular, rolls of noxious weed-free rice straw, wrapped in black plastic netting. They are approximately 8 inches in diameter and 25-30 feet long. Staked into place along hillsides that have been recently constructed or disturbed, the rolls will last for 3 to 5 years and are particularly useful in preventing erosion by trapping and holding sediment on the slopes.



WFSA:
Wildland Fire Situation Analysis



Whites:
The brand of boot that many firefighters choose to wear.

The Original Smokejumper boots - Model 400V. Rebuildable/Resoleable. In stock sizes 6-15, C, D, E, EE, FF. On sale now for \$431.00.

Widow Maker:
Describes a detached or broken limb or tree top and denotes the hazards that such features cause, being responsible for causing fatalities to forest workers.

Wild and Scenic River:

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System was created by Congress in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

Wilderness:

A natural environment on Earth that has not been significantly modified by human activity.

Witches Broom:

A disease or deformity in a woody plant, typically a tree, where the natural structure of the plant is changed. A dense mass of shoots



grows from a single point, with the resulting structure resembling a broom or a bird's nest.

W.F.L.C.

Western Forestry Leadership Council



Woody:

As in "The Owl." Woody's slogan was officially introduced on September 15, 1971 by Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin. The first Woody Owl public service spot was created by U.S. Forest Ranger Chuck Williams, who was the Forest Service's technical consultant for

the Lassie TV show which featured a Forest Service Ranger and his family.

Woody Biomass:

Generally refers to the by-product of management, restoration, and hazardous fuel reduction treatments, including trees and woody plants (i.e., limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other woody parts) grown in a forest, woodland, or rangeland environment.

WUI:

Wildland Urban Interface

X.

Xerox Machine:

In the old days, this was the only brand of copier you could find.

Y.

YACC:

Young Adult Conservation Crew

YCC:

Youth Conservation Crew

Yikes:

An expression of surprise.

Z.

Zero Dark Thirty:

Really, really early in the morning.

Zoom cCall:

A new addition to the glossary in 2020 - the year of Covid-19.

