

XI. APPENDIX

WILDFIRE GLOSSARY

Aerial fuels All live and dead vegetation in the forest canopy or above surface fuels, including tree branches, twigs and cones, snags, moss, and high brush.

Arson fire A wildfire willfully ignited by anyone to burn, or spread to, vegetation or property without consent of the owner or his/her agent.

At-risk community a place where humans and their development meet or intermix with wildland fuel.

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

Brush fire A fire burning in vegetation that is predominantly shrubs, brush, and scrub growth.

Canopy The stratum containing the crowns of the tallest vegetation present (living or dead), usually above 20 feet.

Crown fire A fire that advances from top to top of trees or shrubs more or less independent of a surface fire.

Debris burning fire In fire suppression terminology, a fire spreading from any fire originally ignited to clear land or burn rubbish, garbage, crop stubble, or meadows (excluding incendiary fires).

Defensible space An area, typically a width of 30 feet or more, between an improved property and a potential wildfire where the combustibles have been removed or modified.

Engine Transports miscellaneous fire suppression equipment and is most commonly used to fight fire by spraying water.

Escape route away from dangerous areas on a fire; should be preplanned.

Evacuation The temporary movement of people and their possessions from locations threatened by wildfire.

Exposure (1) Property that may be endangered by a fire burning in another structure or by a wildfire. (2) Direction in which a slope faces, usually with respect to cardinal directions. (3) The general surroundings of a site with special reference to its openness to winds.

Fine fuels Fast-drying dead fuels, generally characterized by a comparatively high surface area-to volume ratio, which are less than 1/4-inch in diameter. These fuels (grass, leaves, needles, etc.) ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire when dry.

Fire behavior The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

Fire department Any regularly organized fire department, fire protection district or fire company regularly charged with the responsibility of providing fire protection to the jurisdiction.

Fire hazard A fuel complex, defined by volume, type condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.

Fire hydrant A valved connection on a piped water supply system having one or more outlets that is used to supply hose and fire department engines with water.

Fire prevention Activities, including education, engineering, enforcement and administration that are directed at reducing the number of wildfires, the costs of suppression, and fire-caused damage to resources and property.

Fire proofing Removing or treating fuel with fire retardant to reduce the danger of fires igniting or spreading (e.g., fire-proofing roadsides, campsites, structural timber). Protection is relative, not absolute.

Fire protection The actions taken to limit the adverse environmental, social, political and economical effects of fire.

Fire regime Periodicity and pattern of naturally-occurring fires in a particular area or vegetative type, described in terms of frequency, biological severity, and area extent.

Fire resistant tree A species with compact, resin-free, thick corky bark and less flammable foliage that has a relatively lower probability of being killed or scarred by a fire than a fire sensitive tree.

Fire retardant Any substance except plain water that by chemical or physical action reduces flammability of fuels or slows their rate of combustion.

Fire season Period(s) of the year during which wildland fires are likely to occur, spread, and affect resources values sufficient to warrant organized fire management activities.

Fire suppressant Any agent used to extinguish the flaming and glowing phases of combustion by direct application to the burning fuel.

Fire swatter A fire tool that consists of a thick, flat piece of rubber on a long handle used to drag over or smother out flames.

Fire triangle Instructional aid in which the sides of a triangle are used to represent the three factors (oxygen, heat, fuel) necessary for combustion and flame production; removal of any of the three factors causes flame production to cease.

Firewise construction The use of materials and systems in the design and construction of a building or structure to safeguard against the spread of fire within a building or structure and the spread of fire to or from buildings or structures to the wildland/urban interface area.

Firewise landscaping Vegetative management that removes flammable fuels from around a structure to reduce exposure to radiant heat. The flammable fuels may be replaced with green lawn, gardens, certain individually spaced green, ornamental shrubs, individually spaced and pruned trees, decorative stone or other non-flammable or flame-resistant materials.

Flammability The relative ease with which fuels ignite and burn regardless of the quantity of the fuels.

Foam The aerated solution created by forcing air into, or entraining air in water containing a foam concentrate by means of suitably designed equipment or by cascading it through the air at a high velocity. Foam reduces combustion by cooling, moistening and excluding oxygen.

Forest fire Uncontrolled, wild, or running fires occurring on forest, marsh, field, cutover, or other lands. Other more common terms for a forest fire include grass fire, brush fire, and wildfire.

Fuel condition Relative flammability of fuel as determined by fuel type and environmental conditions.

Fuel loading The volume of fuel in a given area generally expressed in tons per acre.

Fuel modification Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition or the resistance to fire control.

Fuels All combustible material within the wildland/urban interface or intermix, including vegetation and structures.

Fuelbreak An area, strategically located for fighting anticipated fires, where the native vegetation has been modified or replaced so that fires burning into it can be more easily controlled. Fuel breaks divide fire-prone areas into smaller areas for easier fire control and to provide access for firefighting.

Ground fuels Combustible materials lying beneath the surface including roots, buried logs, deep duff and other organic matter.

Hazard The degree of flammability of the fuels once a fire starts. This includes the fuel (type, arrangement, volume and condition), topography and weather.

Hazard Reduction Manipulation, including combustion, or removal of hazardous fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control

Human-caused fire Any fire caused directly or indirectly by person(s).

Interface See Wildland-urban interface.

Intermix Interspersion of developed land with wildland.

Ladder fuels Fuels that provide vertical continuity allowing fire to carry from surface fuels into the crowns of trees or shrubs with relative ease.

Mitigation Action that moderates the severity of a fire hazard or risk.

Mutual Aid Agreement An agreement in place between fire protection agencies that allows for either fire protection agency to help the other in a wildfire event.

National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) A uniform fire danger rating system that focuses on the environmental factors that control the moisture content of fuels.

Natural barrier Any area where lack of flammable material obstructs the spread of wildfires.

Noncombustible A material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will not aid combustion or add appreciable heat to an ambient fire.

Open burning Uncontrolled burning of wastes in the open or in an open dump.

Overstory That portion of the trees in a forest which forms the upper or uppermost layer.

Peak fire season That period of the fire season during which fires are expected to ignite most readily, to burn with greater than average intensity, and to create damages at an unacceptable level.

Planning unit a sub-unit of the larger project area. Consolidated tracts of land which exhibit similar wildfire concerns.

Prescribed burning Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions, which allows the fire to be

confined to a predetermined area, and to produce the fire behavior and fire characteristics required to attain planned fire treatment and resource management objectives.

Prescribed fire A fire burning within prescription. This fire may result from either planned or unplanned ignitions.

Project area The geographic extent of the CWPP project

Protection area That area for which a particular fire protection organization has the primary responsibility for attacking an uncontrolled fire and for directing the suppression action. Such responsibility may develop through law, contract, or personal interest of the fire protection agent. Several agencies or entities may have some basic responsibilities without being known as the fire organization having direct protection responsibility.

Pumper see "Engine"

Response Movement of an individual firefighting resource from its assigned standby location to another location or to an incident in reaction to dispatch orders or to a reported alarm.

Retardant A substance or chemical agent which reduces the flammability of combustibles.

Risk The chance of a fire starting from any cause.

Rural Fire District (RFD) An organization established to provide fire protection to a designated geographic area outside of areas under municipal fire protection. Usually has some taxing authority and officials may be appointed or elected.

Slope The variation of terrain from the horizontal; the number of feet rise or fall per 100 feet measured horizontally, expressed as a percentage.

Structure fire Fire originating in and burning any part of all of any building, shelter, or other structure.

Suppression The most aggressive fire protection strategy, it leads to the total extinguishment of a fire.

Surface fuels Combustible materials lying directly above the surface such as logs, stumps, logging slash, leaves, pine needles, grass and other understory vegetation.

Tanker see "Tender"

Tender A truck equipped with a water tank, used to assist in providing water to fire engines, or it can be used by itself, to fight a fire.

Topography Physical features of the landscape, surface irregularity.

Tree crown The primary and secondary branches growing out from the main stem, together with twigs and foliage.

Uncontrolled fire Any fire which threatens to destroy life, property, or natural resources, and (a) is not burning within the confines of firebreaks, or (b) is burning with such intensity that it could not be readily extinguished with ordinary, commonly available tools.

Understory Low-growing vegetation (herbaceous, brush or reproduction) growing under a stand of trees. Also, that portion of trees in a forest stand below the overstory.

Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) A fire department of which some or all members are unpaid.

Water supply A source of water for firefighting activities.

Wildland An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland fire Any fire occurring on the wildlands, regardless of ignition source, damages or benefits.

Wildland/Urban Interface Any area where wildland fuels threaten to ignite combustible homes and structures.

GLOSSARY OF ACRONYMS USED IN THIS PLAN

ATV All-terrain vehicle
BFD Barnes Fire Department
BPU Biophysical Unit
CNNF Chequamegon-Niclot National Forest
CWPP Community Wildfire Protection Plan
DFD Drummond Fire Department
DIVS Division/Group Supervisor
FM Fuel Model
FR Fire Regime
FRU Fire Response Unit
GIS Geographic Information System
HFI Healthy Forests Initiative
HFRA Healthy Forests Restoration Act
ISO International Standards Organization
LTA Land Type Association
LOP Level of Protection
LS Lake Superior Basin
MAA Mutual Aid Agreement
MR Mississippi River Basin
NASF National Association of State Foresters
NFPA National Fire Protection Association
NWCG National Wildfire Coordinating Group
NWRPC Northwest Regional Planning Commission
RNA Research Natural Area
SMA Special Management Area
SPNMA Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Area
TIGER Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing
USDA United States Department of Agriculture
WDNR Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
WISCLAND Wisconsin Initiative for Statewide Cooperation on Landscape Analysis and Data
WUI Wildland-Urban Interface