Appendix A – Glossary of Terms

Alpine/Non-alpine	First level of the Land Cover Classification System. Presence or absence of alpine characteristics within the boundaries of the plot.
Biomass	The mass of trees and other plants expressed in kg of oven dry material.
Coarse Fragments	Percent of the total volume of soil material occupied by mineral particles larger than 2 mm in diameter recorded for each mineral soil horizon.
Coarse woody debris	Coarse woody debris is dead woody material located above the soil, in various stages of decomposition. The woody debris must be larger than 7.5 cm in diameter (or equivalent cross section) at the crossing point, and not self-supporting. Trees and stumps (intact in ground) are considering self-supporting.
Density Class	Sixth level of Land Classification System. Vegetation densities for vegetated plots and a further classification of non-vegetated plots.
Depth to Soil Features	Observed depth in cm to soil features.
Disturbance	Disturbance: A discreet force that has caused significant change in structure and/or composition of the forest during the last 10 years (e.g. a change resulting in the normal growth pattern of the forest being significantly reduced (>50%). Disturbance interventions could result from: ▪ natural physical events: fire, flood, windthrow ▪ mortality caused by insect or disease outbreaks ▪ human-caused events ▪ harvest ▪ other Extent of disturbance is measured in percentage of area.
Family	The fourth level of soil classification.
Fine Woody Debris	Fine woody debris (FWD), for the purposes of this inventory, is defined as dead woody material located above the litter layer, in various stages of decomposition. Fine woody debris must be less than or equal to 1.0 centimetres in diameter (or equivalent cross section) at the crossing point, and not self-supporting.
Foliar Cover	Foliar Cover is defined as the percentage of ground covered by the vertical projection of the aerial portion of plants. Small openings in the canopy and intraspecific overlap are excluded. Foliar cover is always less than canopy cover; either may exceed 100% (S.R.M.).
Forage Production	Forage Production is the weight of forage that is produced within a designated period of time on a given area. The weight may be expressed as either green, air-dry, or oven-dry. The term may also be modified as to time of production such as annual, current year's, or seasonal forage production (S.R.M.). Production can also be expressed as animal unit months (AUMs), which is the amount of dry forage required by one animal unit for one month based on a forage allowance of 26 pounds (11.7 kg) per day.
Forbs	Forbs are any broad-leafed herbaceous plants except Gramineae (or Poaceae), Cyperaceae and Juncaceae families (S.R.M.) and, for forage measurement purposes, include ferns and fern allies, club mosses, and horsetails.
Forest Structure	The structure of the prevailing forest cover in the plot (if treed).
Graminoids	Graminoids are grass or grass-like plants (sedges and rushes) such as Poa, Carex, and Juncus species (S.R.M.).
Horizon Depth	Average distance from "zero depth" in cm for each horizon in the profile.
Humus Form	Form of the organic and organic-enriched mineral horizons at the soil surface.
Land Base	Second level of the Land Cover Classification System. Presence or absence of vegetation within the boundaries of the plot.
Land Cover	Third level of the Land Cover Classification System. Presence or absence of trees for vegetated plots; land or water for non-vegetated plots.
Landscape Position	Fourth level of Land Cover Classification System. Location of the plot relative to drainage.
Leading Species Criteria	Quantitative criteria used to rank species occurrence.
Leading Species Percent	Percentage of each species in the plot determined by quantitative criteria used to rank species occurrence.

Leading Species Tree	Tree species with the largest basal area per hectare based on all living trees ≥ 9.0 cm DBH in the large tree plot. Residual trees from a previous stand are not included in the tally.
Mineral Soil Texture	Texture of each mineral soil horizon
Mortality Cause and Extent	Dead trees in the plot since last measurement, or during the last five years if no previous measurement. Extent of the mortality in %; basis for mortality extent.
Network Label	The National Forest Inventory label that identifies the point on the network associated with the sample plot.
Order, Great Group and Subgroup	The highest three levels of generalization.
Phenology	Phenology is the study of periodic biological phenomena which are recurrent, such as flowering or seeding, especially as related to climate (S.R.M.).
Plot Centre	Location around which detailed ground sample information will be collected. All measurement attributes are attached to the plot.
Plot Location	Plot center location around which detailed ground sample information will be collected.
Polygon Identification (optional)	a unique number assigned to each vegetated or non-vegetated polygon in the National Forest Inventory, after it is delineated; identifies the polygon(s) containing the plot location of the ground plot.
Regeneration	The continuous renewal of a forest stand (i.e. establishment of new young trees) by natural or artificial means.
Second Species Tree	The tree species with the second largest basal area per hectare based on all living trees ≥ 9.0 cm DBH in the large tree plot. Residual trees from a previous stand are not included in the tally.
Shrub	Woody perennial plants, both evergreen and deciduous, that has a relatively low growth habit, and is generally multi-stemmed, rather than having one bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature (generally less than 10 m) and non-treelike form. A reporting break is made between Tall (greater than or equal to 2 m) and Low (less than 2 m) for wildlife management interpretation purposes. Other breaks may be used if preferred, as height data are estimated as a continuous variable.
Small Tree	A woody plant, usually with a single trunk and a definite crown, that is capable of reaching a mature height of ≥5 m somewhere within its natural range, and has a minimum height of 10 cm and is smaller than 9.0 cm DBH.
Small Woody Debris	Small woody debris (SWD), for the purposes of this inventory, is defined as dead woody material located above the litter layer, in various stages of decomposition. Small woody debris must be 1.0 cm or larger and less than or equal to 7.5 cm in diameter (or equivalent cross section) at transect crossing point, and not self-supporting. Trees and stumps intact in the ground are considered self-supporting.
Soil Colour	General colour of the rooting-zone material.
Soil Horizon	A layer of visually discernable organic or mineral of soil or soil material approximately parallel to the land surface.
Soil Erosion Cause and Extent	significant soil erosion (affecting more than 30% of the plot); extent of soil erosion (more than 30 %).
Stolen	Stolon is a horizontal stem that grows along the surface of the soil and roots at the nodes (S.R.M.). A stoloniferous plant is a plant that has stolons.
Stump	Self-supporting, vegetatively dead, less than or equal to 1.3 m in length and 9.0 cm top diameter or greater. The centre of the stump must lie within the plot. (Stems greater than 1.3 m in length are measured as "trees" in the variable or fixed plot. Stumps with roots detached from the ground are measured as coarse woody debris).
Succession Stage	Any stage of development of an ecosystem from a disturbed, unvegetated state to a climax plant community.
Surface Substrate	Percent surface substrate, for the purposes of this inventory, is defined as the proportion of the ground surface covered by each class of substrate.
Surficial Material	Soil parent material

Top Height	Top height is the height of the largest diameter, live tree in the large tree plot, providing the tree is suitable. Suitable trees are trees that provide heights and ages that can be validly used to estimate site index. This means that the top height tree must be healthy, not have a broken or damaged top, and not have its height growth affected by a competitor. The tree should not be a residual left from previous logging. If the largest diameter tree does not meet these criteria, then no top height sample is taken (a "null" plot). The largest diameter tree is selected regardless of species (Forest Productivity Council, 1998).
Tree Biomass	Total above ground biomass (kg/ha of oven-dry material) of trees >1.3 m tall.
Tree Cover Origin	Origin of the prevailing tree cover in the plot.
Tree Species	A woody plant, usually with a single trunk and a definite crown that is capable of reaching a mature height of 5 m somewhere within its natural range. It is ≥1.3 m in height/length, and ≥9.0 cm DBH, with attached roots. The tree definition includes all standing, supported and fallen live and dead trees, with attached roots. Appendix X includes the scientific and the most frequently used common names of recognized native and exotic tree species in Canada.
Utilization	Utilization is the proportion of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. May refer either to a single species or to the vegetation as a whole (S.R.M.). Utilization refers to the percentage of plant weight removed, not the percentage of plant height removed.
Vegetation Type	Fifth Level of Land Cover Classification System. The distinct type of vegetation or non-vegetated condition of the land base within the plot.
Woody Debris	Any pieces of dead woody material, e.g. dead boles, limbs and large root masses, on the ground in forest stands or in streams. Expressed in kg/ha of oven dry material. Woody debris can also be in the form of felled and bucked logs or log decks.