

Glossary

Biodiversity: The full range of living organisms that inhabit a particular ecosystem.

Cavity trees: Standing trees, either live or dead, which contain hollowed out areas. They are used as shelter for a variety of animals.

Coniferous: Trees that bear their seeds in cones. Usually refers to trees with needles.

Conservation commissions: Volunteer municipal boards charged by the state legislature with the responsibility to inventory and protect a community's natural resources.

Conservation easements: Legal agreements between landowners and conservation organizations or government agencies that restrict uses of the land and protect the land's special values.

Conservation organizations: Private organizations that advocate for the conservation of natural resources.

Deciduous: Trees that periodically lose all their leaves. Most broadleaf trees in New Hampshire are deciduous.

Deer yards: Stands of dense softwood trees that provide shelter for tens and even hundreds of deer, when snow gets too deep for them to travel. Deer yards can range from only a few acres to several hundred acres.

Ecosystem: A community of species (or group of communities) and its physical environment, including atmosphere, soil, sunlight, and water.

Endangered species: A species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range of habitat.

Exotic species: A species that is not native to the ecosystem.

Forest cover types: A natural grouping of different species of trees which commonly occur together over large areas. Forest types are named after one or more dominant tree species in the type.

Forester: A person trained in the science of developing, caring for, and cultivating forests.

Habitat: An area that provides an animal or plant with adequate food, water, shelter, and living space.

Hardwood: Usually refers to a deciduous tree. Also describes the wood from such trees.

Land trusts: Private organizations that protect land directly, usually through the purchase or donation of land and easements on land.

Logger: A person engaged in harvesting, preparing for market, and transporting forest products, such as logs and chips.

Mast: Seeds and fruits from trees and shrubs consumed by wildlife. Hard mast is seeds such as acorns and beechnuts. Soft mast is fleshy fruit such as blueberries, black cherries, and apples.

Natural communities: A natural grouping of trees, plants, microbes, and animals that interact closely. The groupings are based on preferences for similar types of soil, water, and climate.

Old growth forests: Forests that have escaped harvesting or other human modification over the last 350 years.

Softwood: Usually refers to a coniferous tree. Also can be used to describe the wood from such trees.

Threatened species: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range of habitat. See endangered species.

Transpiration: The process by which water evaporates from plant tissues.



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