

# Appendix One - Glossary

- biodiversity** - all of the different living things in area. Includes ecosystem diversity, species diversity, and the variety of genetic materials in a population.
- Biogeoclimatic Zone** - one of fourteen major ecosystems across British Columbia.  
Defined by the patterns of: communities of living things, soils, geography, and climate.
- canopy** - the top layer of the forest
- carnivore** - an organism whose main diet is flesh; may also eat a minor amount of plants, e.g. berries.
- consumer** - an organism that eats others for food
- consumptive use** - when something gets used, for example, mushrooms are harvested in the forest.
- crown** - (of a tree) the top of the tree including all the branches and leaves.
- decadent** - deteriorating in value, becoming less worthy
- decomposer** - an organism which breaks down dead organic material
- ecosystem** - all of the living things in an area, plus their surroundings, plus all the ways in which the organisms interact with each other and their surroundings.
- food chain** - a series of organisms interacting as predators and prey, including plants and animals; the chain of living things through which energy and nutrients flow through an ecosystem.
- food web** - an interlocking set of food chains. Food chains interlock because most organisms have more than one food source and are preyed upon by more than one predator.
- forest floor** - the lowest level visible in the forest; the ground level.
- forest canopy** - the top layer of the forest
- habitat** - the natural surroundings needed by an animal or plant, including everything it needs for reproduction, food, water, and a place to live
- herb** - a soft stemmed, land dwelling plant
- herbivore** - an organism whose main diet is plants, not necessarily just herbs.
- interception** - when something (e.g. rain or snow) is caught or stopped before it reaches the ground.
- microclimate** - a set of climate conditions existing in a small, defined area
- microhabitat** - a set of living conditions existing in a small, defined area.
- nutrient** - food needed by organisms, includes water, vitamins, minerals, proteins, fats, carbohydrates, etc.
- omnivore** - an organism which both eats plants and animals
- photosynthesis** - a process fuelled by energy from the sun, through which plants convert water and carbon dioxide gas into sugar and oxygen gas.
- precipitation** - moisture which condenses from the air and falls to the ground, e.g. fog, dew, rain, snow.
- predator** - an organism which hunts and captures other organisms for food

**producer** - an organism which converts the sun's energy into food.

**shrub** - a woody plant usually under 5 metres tall, does not include young trees.

**snowpack** - the amount of snow that has accumulated on the ground.

**snowfall** - the amount of snow that has fallen; snowfall from many storms accumulates on the ground to make the snowpack.

**structure** (of the forest) - the way the forest is built; usually refers to the canopy, understorey and forest floor plus physical features such as snags, cavities in the trees, etc.

**succession** - when one thing follows another; such as the series of communities that develops as a forest ecosystem recovers from a disturbance.

**sustainable use** - when a resource is used in a way that does not diminish over the long term.

**understorey** - the shrubs and young trees that reach up above forest floor, but not up into the crowns of the mature trees. The understorey can be multi-layered, especially if there is a well developed shrub layer with young trees reaching up considerably higher.