

Glossary

CCFM – Canadian Council of Forest Ministers; made up of the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the departments that oversee forests and forestry issues.

CFA – Canadian Forestry Association; one of Canada's oldest, not-for-profit organizations that works to promote understanding and cooperation in the wise use and sustainable development of Canada's forests.

ecosystem – An interacting system of living [plants, wildlife, microorganisms, and so on] and non-living [rocks, water, climate] features.

forest region – A way of classifying large land areas that share similar types of trees and plants; other features, for example climate, soils and landforms, are sometimes included.

forest products – Items extracted from the forest for human use; for example timber, pulp and paper, extracts such as turpentine and other chemicals, maple syrup, and so on.

GIS – Geographic Information System

GPS – Global Positioning System

IMFN – International Model Forest Network [see pages 6 & 7 for details]

MF – Model Forest [see pages 5 & 6 for details]

reforestation – To help a forest to regrow by planting, or by aiding natural reseeding from the remaining trees [called natural regeneration].

resource management – The planned management of forests, wildlife, and fisheries to ensure their long-term survival; may also include oil, natural gas, minerals and aggregates [sand, gravel and related materials].

sustainable development – Subject to a range of definitions but most refer to the struggle to balance competing human demands for resources [not only on forests but for food, for land to live on, for jobs, for economic health and so on] with current and long-term ecological needs, not just for the present but in ways that look to the needs of future generations.

sustainable forest management – Similar to the above; managing forests with a recognition of environmental, social and economic needs for the future as well as the present, thereby optimizing the forest as a renewable resource.

traditional ecological knowledge [TEK] – The understanding of a forest or ecosystem gained by close association with it over centuries, as is the case with Canada's Aboriginal communities.

watershed – The land area drained by a river and its tributaries.

wildfire – Generally, any unplanned fire, often started by lightning, sparks, or human carelessness.

From Harvesting Timber Activities:

H = Historic

M = Modern

Note: The historic definitions use the term men or man to reflect the fact that women were not involved in this process. Today both men and women are involved.

alligator^[H] – A rugged steam-powered boat with a powerful winch used to tow booms of logs across lakes. The boat could also winch itself over land.

allowable cut^[M] – The amount of wood that can be taken from an area each year without having a negative effect on the forest or local environment.

axeman^[H] – A forest worker skilled in safely chopping down trees in a direction suitable for being skidded to the landing.

block cutting^[M] – Removing trees in blocks; often used to manage wildlife, encourage natural regeneration or to protect fragile sites.

chainsaw^[M] – A gas-powered tool used to cut down trees.

clear cutting^[M] – Clearing a small or large area of forest of all its trees; in most cases to mimic natural disturbances such as fire, blowdown or insect damage.

cutter^[M] – The person who cuts down trees.

feller-buncher^[M] – A forestry harvesting machine, usually run by one person, that cuts down trees and then cuts the logs into uniform lengths.

foreman^[H&M] – The person in charge of other workers to make sure that the job gets done.

forest management unit^[M] – A predetermined area that is used to help plan and manage for the long-term health of a forest.

forewarder^[M] – A machine used to move logs in the forest to a central point from where they can be loaded and transported to a mill.

grapple-loader^[M] – A large piece of hydraulic machinery equipped with a claw-like device to grab logs and lift them from a storage pile onto the back of a truck.

harvester^[M] – A broad category of heavy machinery used to cut timber mechanically.

hewer^[H] – The man who used a broad axe to trim the logs into squared timber by creating four flat surfaces.

high grading^[H] – An early practice of cutting selected trees, removing only the most valuable species or the ones of the desired size and quality without concern for the long-term health of the stand. Over the long-term this process contradicted sound forest management and is no longer tolerated.

liner^[H] – The man who marks the timber with a chalk line to show a scorer how deep the notches should be made to remove bark and edges.

log truck with pup^[M] – A truck pulling a non-steering trailer.

log drivers^[H] – The men who drove the timber down-river, breaking log jams along the way.

lop and top^[M] – The branches and tops cut from a tree.

marking [trees]^[H&M] – The use of a sign — a paint mark, tag or mark on the bark — to show which trees should be cut.

rigging-slinger^[M] – This person hooks up the cables and equipment used in cable logging, a method for moving timber down mountainsides in places like BC.

river pig^[H] – A slang term used for log drivers.

river drive^[H&M] – A method used before roads and trucks or trains to move timber over water from the forest to a processing site such as a mill. Canada's last real river drive was in the spring of 1982 on the Coulonge River in the Ottawa Valley.

road monkeys^[H] – Men responsible for keeping the roads iced at night. The ice surface would make it easier for the sleighs, heavily loaded with logs, to be moved by the horses.

rollaway^[H] – Riverside storage where logs were piled to await the spring melt.

rosser^[H] – The man responsible for removing the bark from the trees in the bush.

scorer^[H] – Axeman responsible for cutting notches along a piece of timber and removing bark and outer edges ahead of the hewer who would square the timber.

selective cutting^[M] – Selective cutting is the planned removal of selected trees in a forested area to improve the health and growth of that stand.

shanty^[H] – Large, rough log buildings where lumberjacks ate, slept and lived throughout their winters in the forest.

silviculture^[M] – The theory and practice of planting, growing and managing forest stands for their optimum health and often for specific objectives [to produce timber, to establish a maple syrup operation, for rapid growth and so on.]

skidder operator^[M] – The person who operates a tractor-like machine that is used to drag harvested logs from the place where they were cut to a nearby roadside.

sky loader^[H] – A man who loads the logs onto the sleigh.

stockpiling^[M] – Collecting timber in one place before transporting it directly to the mill for processing.

swamper^[H] – A person who removes the smaller trees so that the larger trees are not damaged when they fall.

teamster^[H] – The man who drives the team of horses pulling the sleigh of logs.

timber mark^[H&M] – A mark that is stamped into the end of a piece of timber to show which company owns it. Today, a similar mark is being used on lumber to identify its producer or to show that it is harvested according to certain guidelines [example: see Smartwood, pg 4].

white water boys^[H] – A slang term for the log drivers.

yarding^[M] – Gathering the logs in one place before moving them on to the mill.

