

Glossary

biome: a particular regional or global biotic community, such as a grassland, desert or specific type of forest, that is characterized mainly by the dominant plant species and prevailing climate.

carbon sink: a place where carbon is accumulating – such as a forest – where carbon dioxide from the air is converted into carbon-containing sugars and plant fibre.

climate change: an on-going process of large-scale and long-term weather changes due to planetary warming or cooling that may involve many unpredictable and extreme effects.

conservation: the study, protection, sustainable utilization, restoration and enhancement of natural resources with a long-term perspective.

COSEWIC: the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, an independent volunteer group of experts funded by the Canadian government, which conducts research and provides recommendations about at-risk species for the government to use when updating the Species at Risk Act (SARA).

deforestation: clearing an area of forest for another long-term use, such as golf courses, parking lots, buildings and roads.

forest fragmentation: the process of breaking up a once-intact forest into fragments, usually as a result of agriculture, mining, pipelines, roads and other developments.

habitat: the arrangement of food, water, shelter and space.

intact forest: forest that does not contain roads or other developments.

invasive species: a non-native species that has arrived in an area due to migration or to direct/indirect effects of human activity; and can cause problems for native species.

management: careful planning and decision-making that goes into the wise use and conservation of natural resources such as forests, fresh water and fisheries. This could include harvest levels, protected areas, and use policies.

native species: a species normally found in an area.

non-renewable resources: naturally occurring assets such as oil, gas and minerals that exist in finite amounts.

organism: a living thing.

prescribed burn: a deliberate and carefully planned fire in a controlled area, set to prevent wildfire, promote regeneration and control invasive species.

refugium: an area that has escaped ecological changes occurring elsewhere and so provides a suitable habitat for species in need.

renewable resources: naturally recurring assets including wood, water, fish, plants and wildlife.

riparian zone: a distinct area between land and water (excluding ocean) featuring specific types of vegetation. Trees and plants here are important for wildlife habitat and food, sediment control and erosion prevention.

SARA: Canada's Species at Risk Act

species-at-risk: a species identified by COSEWIC that is of special concern, threatened, endangered (facing imminent extinction) or extirpated (extinct in certain areas of previous inhabitation).

stakeholder: a person or organization that has an investment and concern in a particular item or endeavour; stakeholders wish to be included in the sharing of information and contribute to decision making.

sustainable: describes practices that allow for controlled consumption so that a renewable resource remains at basically the same level.

taiga: the term used in Russia to define the boreal forest

wetland: a distinct wet area of habitat featuring varying degrees of water and specific types of vegetation and soil; includes swamps, bogs, fens and marshes. Spruce bogs are very common in the boreal.