Afforestation. The process of establishing a forest, especially on land not recently forested.

Aspect. The direction in relation to the sun.

Basal Application. A method for applying herbicide to an unwanted tree using a backpack sprayer with the herbicide mixed in an oil carrier. The spray is applied to the bottom 12-15 inches of the stem.

Best Management Practices. Widely-accepted procedures that help achieve a particular management goal.

Biological carrying capacity. The number of individuals of an animal species that a piece of land can support in good health over time without damaging the habitat.

Browse line. A line about 6 feet high created by heavy deer browsing. Below this line, not much green vegetation remains.

Catkin. The petal-less flower of poplars, walnuts, and birches.

Coniferous. Evergreen trees; most have needles or needle-like leaves.

Cover. Trees, shrubs, tall grass, thickets, burrows, rock and brush piles, stream banks, caves, and rock ledges that protect animals from the weather and predators and provide them safe places to eat, sleep, breed, and nest.

Crop tree. Any tree you want to keep and nurture. Possibilities include those that are particularly well formed, those you want to keep for timber, trees that produce fruit or mast, and those with special wildlife value (e.g., a hollow tree for denning).

Cultural carrying capacity. The number of individuals of an animal species that society is willing to tolerate.

Deciduous. Trees and shrubs that lose their leaves each autumn; most are broad-leaved.
**Diameter at breast height (DBH)** is a standard method of expressing the diameter of a tree trunk by measuring it at about 4.5 feet above the ground.

**E**

*Ecology.* The relationship of animals to their environments.

*Edge.* Where different plant communities or different age classes of the same plant community come together.

*Emergent aquatic vegetation.* Plants that are rooted in the bottom of a water body and extend above the water surface. Common examples are cattails, bulrush, smartweed, and arrowhead.

**Exotic species.** An introduced species that, through human intervention, grows where it would not naturally occur.

**F**

*Forb.* A broad-leaved non-woody plant (as opposed to grass); most wildflowers are forbs.

*Forest canopy.* The crown of the tallest trees in a forest; shades the understory.

**G**

*Groundwater.* Water that is stored underground in cracks in rocks, in porous rock formations, and in the spaces between soil grains.

**H**

*Habitat.* An ecological or environmental area that is inhabited by a particular species of animal, plant, or other organism. A habitat is comprised of physical elements such as moisture, soil, temperature range, the availability of light and food, and the presence of predators.

*Hack ‘n Squirt.* Common term for “stem injection application.”

*Hard edge.* A place where there is an abrupt transition between plant communities.

*Hardwood.* A deciduous tree.

*Herbaceous.* A non-woody plant.

*Home range.* The area within which an animal normally travels to meet its food, water, and cover needs.
**Invasive species.** A species that reproduces rapidly, spreads over large areas of the landscape, and has few, if any, natural controls to keep it in check.

**Mast trees.** Trees that produce fruits, seeds, or nuts edible to wildlife.

**Native.** Species that occur naturally in a particular place without human intervention.

**Overtopping.** Occurs when one tree grows taller and shades the crown of another tree.

**Riparian.** Relating to or located on the bank of a water body, usually of freshwater; the area beside a water body.

**Riparian buffer.** A waterside area containing vegetation that protects the water body from potential pollutants such as sediment and nutrients and holds the bank in place.

**Runoff.** The portion of precipitation that flows over land to a water body.

**Seep.** A place where groundwater surfaces, sometimes forming a pool.

**Shade-intolerant plants.** Plants that need full sunlight and cannot grow in the shade of other plants.

**Silviculture.** The development and care of forests.

**Site quality.** A measure of the suitability of a site for growing trees.

**Snag.** A dead standing tree, often valuable for wildlife.

**Soft edge.** A place where there is a gradual transition from one type of plant community to another.

**Softwood.** A coniferous tree.
**Soil.** The underlying mineral or organic material that serves as the natural growth medium for land plants.

**Soil and water conservation district:** An educational, non-profit organization run by individual states to promote effective methods for conserving soil and water resources.

**Spring.** A source of water from the ground.

**Stand.** A group of forest trees of a sufficiently uniform species, composition, age, and condition to be considered a homogeneous unit for management purposes.

**Stewardship.** The process of caring for land and its environment through a variety of management techniques.

**Stem injection application.** A method for applying herbicide to an unwanted tree that involves making a cut with a sharp ax and spraying a solution of 50% herbicide and water into the slit.

**Stump Application.** A method for applying herbicide to a cut-down tree by spraying a solution of 50% herbicide and water to the outer inch of the tree stump.

**Succession.** The sequential process of natural change and replacement of plant and associated animal communities over time.

**ST**

**Undercutting.** A process by which a stream or river’s flow begins to cut under the bank, potentially causing the stream bank to collapse and erode.

**Understory.** The vegetation below the forest canopy; includes grasses, forbs, shrubs, and small or young trees.

**Uneven-aged forest.** A stand of trees of three or more distinct age classes, either mixed or in small groups; also called mixed-age stand.

**V**

**Vertical stratification.** Describes a forest canopy with plants of many different heights.

**W**

**Wolf tree.** A large tree, often a remnant from a previous stand. Has a broad crown and many limbs. Often stands alone in a field or on a property boundary.

**Woodland.** A natural area setting that is large enough to serve as a habitat that creates an ecological system.