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| Glossary |  |
| Chapter 10 |  |
| biodiversity hotspot | An area especially rich in plant species that are found nowhere else and are in great danger of extinction. Such areas suffer serious ecological disruption, mostly because of rapid human population growth and the resulting pressure on natural resources. |
| clear-cutting | Method of timber harvesting in which all trees in a forested area are removed in a single cutting. Compare selective cutting, strip cutting. |
| commercial forest | Site planted with one or only a few tree species in an even-aged stand. When the stand matures it is usually harvested by clear-cutting and then replanted. These farms normally raise rapidly growing tree species for fuelwood, timber, or pulpwood. Compare old-growth forest, second-growth forest. See tree plantation. |
| crown fire | Extremely hot forest fire that burns ground vegetation and treetops. Compare controlled burning, ground fire, surface fire. |
| debt-for-nature swap | Agreement in which a certain amount of foreign debt is canceled in exchange for local currency investments that will improve natural resource management or protect certain areas in the debtor country from environmentally harmful development. |
| deforestation | Removal of trees from a forested area. |
| ecological restoration | Deliberate alteration of a degraded habitat or ecosystem to restore as much of its ecological structure and function as possible. |
| old-growth forest | Virgin and old, second-growth forests containing trees that are often hundreds?sometimes thousands?of years old. Examples include forests of Douglas fir, western hemlock, giant sequoia, and coastal redwoods in the western United States. Compare second-growth forest, tree plantation. |
| overgrazing | Destruction of vegetation when too many grazing animals feed too long on a specific area of pasture or rangeland and exceed the carrying capacity of a rangeland or pasture area. |
| pasture | Managed grassland or enclosed meadow that usually is planted with domesticated grasses or other forage to be grazed by livestock. Compare feedlot. |
| primary forest | Virgin and old, second-growth forests containing trees that are often hundreds?sometimes thousands?of years old. Examples include forests of Douglas fir, western hemlock, giant sequoia, and coastal redwoods in the western United States. Compare second-growth forest, tree plantation. See old-growth forest. |
| rangeland | Land that supplies forage or vegetation (grasses, grasslike plants, and shrubs) for grazing and browsing animals and is not intensively managed. Compare feedlot, pasture. |
| reconciliation ecology | Science of inventing, establishing, and maintaining habitats to conserve species diversity in places where people live, work, or play. |
| reforestation | Renewal of trees and other types of vegetation on land where trees have been removed; can be done naturally by seeds from nearby trees or artificially by planting seeds or seedlings. |
| restoration ecology | Research and scientific study devoted to restoring, repairing, and reconstructing damaged ecosystems. |
| riparian zone | A thin strip or patch of vegetation that surrounds a stream. These zones are very important habitats and resources for wildlife. |
| second-growth forest | Stands of trees resulting from secondary ecological succession. Compare old-growth forest, tree farm. |
| selective cutting | Cutting of intermediate-aged, mature, or diseased trees in an uneven-aged forest stand, either singly or in small groups. This encourages the growth of younger trees and maintains an uneven-aged stand. Compare clear-cutting, strip cutting. |
| strip cutting | Variation of clear-cutting in which a strip of trees is clear-cut along the contour of the land, with the corridor being narrow enough to allow natural regeneration within a few years. After regeneration, another strip is cut above the first, and so on. Compare clear-cutting, selective cutting. |
| surface fire | Forest fire that burns only undergrowth and leaf litter on the forest floor. Compare crown fire, ground fire. See controlled burning. |
| tree plantation | Site planted with one or only a few tree species in an even-aged stand. When the stand matures it is usually harvested by clear-cutting and then replanted. These farms normally raise rapidly growing tree species for fuelwood, timber, or pulpwood. Compare old-growth forest, second-growth forest. |
| wilderness | Area where the earth and its ecosystems have not been seriously disturbed by humans and where humans are only temporary visitors. |

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