

Cutting through the Underbrush

While it is a myth that the Inuit have 400 words for snow, it is no myth that the U.S. Forest Service has a multitude of words for cutting trees. This year, President Bush has ordered the Forest Service to double the volume of timber taken off federal lands. So watch for these euphemisms coming to a forest near you:

U.S. Forest Service Terminology	The Real Meaning
Mechanically treat	Log
Harvest	Log
Actively manage land	Log
Management-caused vegetation change	Logs
Sustainable forest management	Log
Working landscapes	Logged areas
Reduce forest fuels	Log
Sanitation thinning	Log young and old trees on same site
Rehabilitate a forest	Log
Forest restoration	Log
Treat	Log (and apply herbicides)
Thin	Log (smaller trees)
Even-aged forest	Log everything, <i>i.e.</i> , Clearcut
Minimum green tree retention units	Clearcut
Timber type conversion	Clearcut
Temporary wildlife opening	Clearcut
Visual diversity area	Clearcut
Provide a deeper view into the forest	Clearcut
Vista enhancement	Clearcut
Enhanced grove of trees	Clearcut
Regeneration harvest	Clearcut
Patch cut	Clearcut
Group-selection harvest	Small clearcuts
Temporary meadows	Clearcut
Birthing scene	Clearcut
Decadent trees	Old-growth trees
Linear wildlife opening	Logging road
Cross-country ski trail enhancement	Logging road
Wildlife travel corridor	Logging road
Prescription	Selecting and marking trees for logging
Unmanaged land	Public land not yet logged

Source: Dick Artley, USFS retired and active member of PEER. For more about your tax dollars at work on your public lands, visit the PEER website at www.peer.org