

Vocabulary List for "Montana Rangelands" Getting to know the Pieces

Alternative Energy Source	Sustainable energy sources such as wind and hydro (water) power.
Annual	Living or growing for only one year or season.
AU	Animal unit: defines forage consumption on the basis of one standard mature 1000 pound cow or the equivalent.
AUM	Animal unit month: The amount of forage required by one animal unit for one month.
Biennial	A plant that normally requires two years to reach maturity, producing leaves in the first year, blooming and producing fruit in its second year, and then dying.
Browse	To graze on leaves and twigs of shrubs and/or trees.
Bunchgrass	Any variety of grasses that grow in a bunch or clump shape. (Not sod-forming).
Conifer	Any of the varieties of evergreen cone bearing trees such as pine, fir, spruce, etc.
Conifer Encroachment	Areas where conifer species are encroaching into grassland habitat.
Controlled Burn	Prescribed fire or (Rx fire) started on forest land or grassland by fire experts to accomplish predetermined, well-defined management objectives.
Fauna	Animals of a particular region.
Fledgling	A young bird that has recently acquired its flight feathers.
Flora	Plant life of a particular region.
Forage	Food for domestic animals such as cattle, sheep, horses, and goats that could be harvested.
Forbs	Any plant other than grasses or trees. Characterized by leaves whose veins are netted, stems are solid or pithy, and flowers are showy.
Germinate	To begin to grow, to sprout.
Grasses	A plant with long narrow leaves which has parallel veins. Stems are hollow.
Graze	To feed or eat on growing grasses, forbs, and trees.
Grazeable Forest	Forest areas that produce enough undergrowth of grass, forbs, and shrubs for grazing.
Habitat	The area or type of environment in which a living organism normally lives or occurs.
Herd Animal	An animal that normally lives in a herd such as cattle, elk, horses, and sheep, and bison.
Herder	A person who tends to or drives a herd.
Invasive Species	Non-native species whose introduction or spread threatens the environment, the economy, and the ecology of an area. (Plant or animal)
Kids	A young goat or similar young animal like an antelope (pronghorn).
Livestock	Domestic animals such as cattle, horses, sheep, hogs, or goats raised for home use or for sales.
Native	A species that is part of the original flora or fauna of an area; indigenous.
Pasture	A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by fences or other barriers.
Perennial	Lasting or active through many years; a plant living more than two years.
Pollinators	An organism that transfers pollen from one plants reproductive organs to another's, such as bees, bats, birds, and butterflies.
Predator	An organism that lives by preying upon other organisms. Examples: coyotes, wolves, mountain lions, etc.
Rangeland	Any land that supports vegetations suitable for grazing including grasslands and grazeable forests.
Recreation	Refreshment of one's mind or body through a fun or amusing activity.
Rhizome	A horizontal stem usually growing under the ground. Roots develop into the soil from its bottom surface, and leaves or shoots from its top surface.
Riparian	The area alongside a creek, river, pond, spring, or other body of water.
Shrubs	A woody plant that grows much shorter than a tree and has several stems, rather than a trunk.
Sod forming Grass	Grass that forms strong matted roots and may have rhizomes or stolons. (Not growing in a bunch).
Solitary Animal	An animal that normally lives or exists alone except at mating time such as bears, moose, and badgers.
Species	A kind, type, or variety of organism capable of interbreeding.
Steward	A person who takes care of land, affairs, or finances, with respect to its nature or quality.
Stolon	A stem growing horizontally above the ground that forms new plants from buds at its tips or nodes.
Trees	A tall woody plant distinguished from a shrub by its height, usually with a single trunk rather than multiple stems.
Ungulate	An animal which has hooves such as cattle, horses, elk, deer, and antelope.
Vegetation	Pertaining to growing plant life.
Weed	A plant considered unwanted or troublesome.
Wildlife	Wild animals and vegetation, especially animals living in a natural, undomesticated state.