

## List of Acronyms in Test

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ACM	—Association for Computing Machinery		Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
ADP	—automated data processing		
AUM	—animal unit month (range forage needed to feed one cow and her calf for 1 month)	NOAA	—National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
APHIS	—Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	NP	—National Park
ASC	—Association of Systematic Collections	NPFLORA	—National Park Flora Data Base
BIA	—Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior	NPS	—National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
BLM	—Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior	NRI	—National Resources Inventories
CGIS	—Canada Geographic Information System	OBS	—Office of Biological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
COE	—Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army	ORNL	—Oak Ridge National Laboratory
CRS	—Congressional Research Service, U.S. Congress	OTA	—Office of Technology Assessment, U.S. Congress
DBMS	—database-management system	RACE	—Resource Assessment and Conservation Engineering
DOD	—Department of Defense	RAIDS	—Riparian/Aquatic Information Data System
EEZ	—Exclusive Economic Zone	RARE	—Roadless Area Review and Evaluation
EIS	—Environmental Impact Statement	RCA	—Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act
EPA	—Environmental Protection Agency	RNA	—Research Natural Area
ESA	—Endangered Species Act	RPA	—Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act
ESIS	—Endangered Species Information System Data Base	RSI	—Range Site Inventory Data Base
FS	—Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture	<b>SCS</b>	—Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
FSRAMIS	—Forest Service Range Analysis and Management Information System Data Base	S1	—Smithsonian Institution
FWS	—Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior	SIGMOD	—Special Interest Group for Management of Data
FY	—fiscal year (October 1 to September 30 for Federal Government]	SOMA	—Spotted Owl Management Area
GIS	—geographic information system	STORMS	—Intensive Forest Survey Inventories Data Base
GRASS	—Geographical Resources Analysis Support System Data Base	STRI	—Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute
IAALC	—Interagency Assessment and Appraisal Liaison Committee	SVIM	—Soil Vegetation Inventory Method Data Base
IEEE	—Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers.	T&E	—Threatened and Endangered (Species)
IHICS	—Integrated Habitat Inventory and Classification System	TNC	—The Nature Conservancy
MFWIS	—Multi-state Fish and Wildlife Information System	TPCC	—Timber Production Capability Classification Data Base
MMC	—Marine Mammal Commission	USDA	—U.S. Department of Agriculture
MMS	—Minerals Management Service	USFS	—U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
NA	—National Arboretum, U.S. Department of Agriculture	USGS	—U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Department of the Interior
NEDRES	—National Environmental Data Referral Service	WHR	—Wildlife Habitat Relationships
NEPA	—National Environmental Policy Act	5 WAY	—Interagency Agreement Relating to Classifications and Inventories of Natural Resources
NMFS	—National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric		

# Appendix C

## Glossary of Terms

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- Attribute:** A characteristic; for example, attributes of data include record length, record format, data set name, and so on.
- Baseline:** The standard from which change is measured.
- Biological diversity:** The variety and variability within and among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur.
- Biota:** The living organisms of a region.
- Bit:** Contraction of "binary digit." A bit is the smallest unit of information in a binary system of notation (8 bits equals 1 byte).
- Byte:** A sequence of adjacent binary digits (bits) operated on as a unit; the minimum code necessary to specify a single character (e. g., "A").
- Communities:** Aggregation of organisms characterized by a distinctive combination of two or more ecologically related species (e. g., deciduous forest).
- Data:** The plural of datum.
- Data bank:** An organized collection of data.
- Database:** A structured collection of information as an entity in itself, or a collection of related files treated as an entity, which can be manipulated.
- Database-management system (DBMS):** A software system that provides access to a database and accommodates a variety of different applications using the same data.
- Data element:** A class or category of data based on natural or assigned relationships.
- Data file:** A collection of related data records organized in a specific manner.
- Datum:** A piece of information. Normally conveys little information as an independent item, but can convey information when used with other items of data.
- Digital:** In the form of numbers from 0 to 9.
- Documentation:** The creation, collection, organization, storage, citation, and dissemination of recorded information.
- Ecosystem:** An ecological community together with its physical environment, considered as a unit.
- Ecotype:** Genetically distinct population within the same species adapted to different environments.
- Fauna:** Organisms of the animal kingdom.
- Flora:** Organisms of the plant kingdom.
- Gene:** A chemical unit of hereditary information that can be passed from one generation to another.
- Genus:** A category of biological classification ranking between the family and the species, comprising structurally or phylogenetically related species or an isolated species exhibiting unusual characteristics.
- Geographic information system (GIS):** A special data system that incorporates explicit spatial data.
- Habitat:** The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives, grows, or reproduces.
- Hardware:** Physical equipment, as opposed to a computer program or method of use; for example, mechanical, magnetic, electrical, or electronic devices.
- Interspecies:** Between different species.
- Inventory:** On-site collection of data on natural resources and their properties.
- Magnetic storage:** The storage of data by means of devices that use the magnetic properties of storage materials such as magnetic tapes and films.
- Mainframe:** A large computer system capable of supporting the activities of many users on an essentially simultaneous basis. Computing capacity, speed, and storage exceed that of the mini- or micro-computer.
- Memory:** The capacity of a computer to store and recall information.
- Microcomputer:** A small computer designed principally for use by an individual.
- Minicomputer:** A small computer that is generally configured for simultaneous use by a small number of people. Larger and more powerful than a microcomputer.
- Modem:** A piece of hardware that converts computer codes into signals that can be transmitted over telephone lines and reconverts such signals into computer codes.
- Nutrient cycling:** The process by which substances or minerals are transferred among organisms within a given location.
- On-site:** Within the natural or original environment.
- Organism:** A living being.
- Phenotype:** An observable characteristic of an organism.
- Population:** A group of organisms (of the same species) occupying a specific geographic area.
- Remote sensing:** Any means of gaining information without direct contact.
- Resolution:** The level of detail achieved in an in-

ventory; for example, data is described as high-resolution if the inventory provided information on biological resources in minute detail.

**Software:** A set of programs that provide the operational structure of a data processing system.

**Species:** A taxonomic category ranking immediately below genus, and including closely related, morphologically similar individuals that actually or potentially interbreed.

**Subspecies:** A taxon of distinct, geographically separated complexes of genes, immediately below species,

**Taxon:** A taxonomic group or entity (plural: taxa).

**Taxonomy:** A hierarchical system of classifying organisms that best reflects the totality of similarities and differences.

**Telecommunication:** Data transmission between a computer system and remotely located devices via a unit that performs the necessary format conversion and controls the rate of transmission.

**Voucher specimens:** Specimens of plants or animals collected and preserved for the purpose of taxonomic identification or verification.

**Wildlife:** Living, nondomesticated animals.