

nonrenewable resources—resources that are often formed by very slow geologic processes, so we consider them incapable of being regenerated within the realm of human existence.

no-till methods—refers to when farmers plant seeds without using a plow to turn the soil.

old growth forest—one that has never been cut; these forests have not been seriously disturbed for several hundred years.

overgrazed—when grass is consumed by animals at a faster rate than it can regrow.

plantation—forests that have been planted for lumber and are not naturally occurring.

preservation—the maintenance of a species or ecosystem in order to ensure their perpetuation, with no concern as to their potential monetary value.

production—the use of environmental resources for profit.

renewable resources—refers to resources, such as plants and animals, which can be regenerated if harvested at sustainable yields.

second growth forests—areas where cutting has occurred and a new, younger forest has arisen.

Second Harvest—an organization that receives food from foods processors and distributors and redistributes it via food banks.

selective cutting—the removal of select trees in an area; this leaves the majority of the habitat in place and has less of an impact on the ecosystem.

shelter-wood cutting—when mature trees are cut over a period of time (usually 10–20 years); this leaves mature trees, which can reseed the forest, in place.

silviculture—the management of forest plantations for the purpose of harvesting timber.

slash and burn—when an area of vegetation is cut down and burned before being planted with crops.

surface fires—fires that typically burn only the forest's underbrush and do little damage to mature trees. These fires actually serve to protect the forest from more harmful fires by removing underbrush and dead materials that would burn quickly and at high temperatures.

tailings—piles of gangue, which is the waste material that results from mining.

traditional subsistence agriculture—when each family in a community grows crops for themselves and rely on animal and human labor to plant and harvest crops.

terracing—creating flat platforms in the hillside that provide a level planting surface, which reduces soil runoff from the slope.

tree farms—also known as plantations, these are planted and managed tracts of trees of the same age that are harvested for commercial use.