

## GLOSSARY

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### A

**Agency:** Any Federal, State, or county government organization participating with jurisdictional responsibilities.

**Air Pollutant:** Generally, an airborne substance that could, in high enough concentrations, harm living things or cause damage to materials. From a regulatory perspective, an air pollutant is a substance for which emissions or atmospheric concentrations are regulated or for which maximum guideline levels have been established due to potential harmful effects on human health and welfare.

**Air Quality:** The cleanliness of the air as measured by the levels of pollutants relative to standards or guideline levels established to protect human health and welfare. Air quality is often expressed in terms of the pollutant for which concentrations are the highest percentage of a standard (e.g., air quality may be unacceptable if the level of one pollutant is 150% of its standard, even if levels of other pollutants are well below their respective standards).

**Air Quality Standard:** Levels of air pollutants prescribed by regulations that may not be exceeded during a specified time in a defined area.

**Allotment (range):** A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under management of an authorized agency. An allotment generally consists of Federal rangelands, but may include intermingled parcels of private, State, or Federal lands. BLM and the Forest Service stipulate the number of livestock and season of use for each allotment.

**Ambient (air):** The surrounding atmospheric conditions to which the general public has access.

**Analysis:** An examination of existing and/or recommended management needs and their relationships in order to discover and display the outputs, benefits, effects, and consequences of initiating a proposed action.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM):** The amount of forage needed to sustain one cow, five sheep, or five goats, for a month. A full AUM's fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the animal (1) is weaned, (2) is 6 months old or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use. For fee purposes, an AUM is the amount of forage used by five weaned or adult sheep or goats or one cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, or mule. The term AUM is commonly used in three ways: (1) stocking rate as X acres per AUM, (b) forage allocation as in X AUM's in allotment A, and (3) utilization as in X AUMs consumed from Unit B.

**Aquifer:** A groundwater bearing rock unit (unconsolidated or bedrock) that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well or spring.

**Archaeology:** The scientific study of the life and culture of past, especially ancient, peoples, by excavation of ancient cities, relics, artifacts, etc.

**Archaeological Site:** A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** An area of public lands designated by BLM for special management attention to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or

scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life/provide safety from natural hazards. Areas designated as ACECs have met criteria for importance and relevance that are outlined in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b).

**Artifact:** A manmade object.

**Attainment Area:** An area that the Environmental Protection Agency has designated as being in compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and particulate matter. An area may be in attainment for some pollutants but not for others.

**Avoidance area:** An environmentally sensitive area where rights-of-way may be granted only when no feasible alternative route is available.

## B

**Basin:** A depressed area having no surface outlet (*topographic basin*); a physiographic feature or subsurface structure that is capable of collecting, storing, or discharging water by reason of its shape and the characteristics of its confining material (*water*); a depression in the earth's surface, the lowest part often filled by a lake or pond (*lake basin*); a widened part of a river or canal (*drainage, river, stream basin*).

**Basin and Range:** A geological and geographical landform common to western North America and characterized by a series of tilted-fault-block mountain ranges and broad intervening basins.

**Biodiversity:** The variety of life and its processes, and the interrelationships within and among various levels of ecological organization. Conservation, protection, and restoration of biological species and genetic diversity are necessary to sustain the health of existing biological systems. Federal resource management agencies must examine the implications of management actions and development decisions on regional and local biodiversity.

**Biological Soil Crust:** A living community of lichen, cyanobacteria, algae, and moss growing on the soil surface, creating a crust of soil particles bound together by organic materials. Biological soil crusts are also known as cryptogamic, microbotic, cryptobiotic, and microphytic crusts and are commonly found in semiarid and arid environments throughout the world.

**Browse:** Leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, trees, cacti, and other non-herbaceous vegetation available for animal consumption.

## C

**Carbon Monoxide:** A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels including gasoline, oil and wood. Carbon monoxide is also produced from incomplete combustion of many natural and synthetic products.

**Cave:** Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages that occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any vug [a small cavity in a rock], mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other manmade excavation) which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or manmade. Such term includes any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance.

**Characteristic:** That which constitutes a character; that which characterizes; a distinguishing trait, feature, or quality; a peculiarity.

**Clean Air Act:** Federal legislation governing air pollution. The Clean Air Act established NAAQS for carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Prevention of Significant Deterioration classifications define the allowable increased levels of air quality deterioration above legally established levels. They include the following:

- Class I – minimal additional deterioration in air quality (certain national parks and wilderness areas)
- Class II – moderate additional deterioration in air quality (most lands)
- Class III – greater deterioration for planned maximum growth (industrial areas)

**Clean Water Act (CWA):** Federal legislation governing water quality. The CWA refers to a series of Federal laws and regulations that attempt to restore the beneficial uses of surface waters of the United States (also referred to as “waters of the U.S.”). The CWA regulates such programs as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, a permit-based set of regulations that control the discharge of pollution to U.S. waterways from an individual point (for example, the end of a pipe) and the discharge of concentrated storm water from highways, cities, and other built environments. The CWA also regulates the placing of fill in streams and washes for the construction of road crossings, pipelines, and power lines. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which in some cases have extended responsibilities to the individual states, regulate these programs.

**Community (ecological):** The living part of an ecosystem. Communities change with succession, thereby forming distinctive ecological units both in time and space. The plant community and the animal community together form the biotic community. Size of area is not implied (i.e., organisms associated with a decaying log or with an entire forest each represent communities).

**Compaction:** The process of packing firmly and closely together; for example, mechanical compaction by vehicular, human or livestock activity. Soil compaction results from particles being pressed together so that the volume of the soil is reduced. It is influenced by the physical properties of the soil, moisture content, and the type and amount of compactive effort.

**Composition:** The proportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area. It may be expressed in terms of cover, density, weight, etc.

**Contrast:** Diversity of adjacent parts, as in color, tone, or emotions. The closer the juxtaposition of two dissimilar perceptions, in time or space, the more powerful the appeal to the attention.

**Corridor:** A wide strip of land within which a proposed linear facility (e.g., pipeline, transmission line) could be located. A corridor may also be a strip of land that is set aside for conservation purposes, particularly to provide wildlife an area of use to move between patches of habitat.

**Corrosivity:** A characteristic defining a hazardous waste. Solid waste that is defined as corrosive demonstrates the capability to destroy gradually by chemical action.

**Criteria Pollutant:** An air pollutant that is regulated by NAAQS. The Environmental Protection Agency must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects that form the basis for setting, or revising, the standard for each regulated pollutant. Criteria pollutants include sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter, less than 10

micrometers (0.0004 inch) in diameter, and less than 2.5 micrometers (0.0001 inch) in diameter. New pollutants may be added to, or removed from, the list of criteria pollutants as more information becomes available. (See National Ambient Air Quality Standards.)

**Critical Habitat:** Habitat essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species that has been designated as critical by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

**Cultural Resources:** A cultural resource is any definite location of past human activity, occupation, or use, identifiable through inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological, historical, or architectural sites, structures, places, objects, and artifacts.

## D

**Decision Area:** BLM-administered public land and private split-estate (i.e., private surface acreage overlying federally owned minerals) within the planning area are referred to in this document as the decision area.

**Desert Pavement:** A surface of angular, interlocking fragments of pebbles, gravel, or boulders found in arid and semiarid environments. These surfaces are found on level or gently sloping desert flats, fans, or bajadas, and lake and river terraces. Desert pavement forms under the influence of daily thermal expansion and contraction as sandy particles slowly sort downward, leaving the larger stones at the surface.

**Desired Plant Community:** An objective regarding a group of compatible plant species, including the desired percentage of occurrence, considered ideal to meet land-management goals for the area.

**Developed Recreation:** Recreation that requires facilities that result in further concentrated use of the area. For example, off-road vehicles require parking lots and trails. Campgrounds require roads, picnic tables, and toilet facilities.

**Distance Zones (views/visual resources):** A subdivision of the landscape as viewed from an observer position. The subdivision (zones) includes foreground-middleground, background, and seldom seen.

***Foreground-Middleground Zone:*** The area that can be seen from each travel route for a distance of 3 to 5 miles where management activities might be viewed in detail. The outer boundary of this distance zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape.

***Background Zone:*** The remaining area that can be seen from each travel route to approximately 15 miles. In order to be included within the distance zone, vegetation should be visible at least as patterns of light and dark.

***Seldom-Seen Zone:*** Areas that are not visible within the foreground-middleground and background zones and areas beyond the background zones.

## E

**Easement:** A right or privilege one may have on another's land.

**Ecological Site:** A distinctive kind of rangeland that differs from other kinds of rangeland in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community.

**Ecosystem:** Any area or volume in which there is an exchange of matter and energy between living and nonliving parts; that is, the biotic community together with soil, air, water, and sunlight form an ecosystem. Ecosystems are the best units for studying the flow of energy and matter.

**Endangered Species:** Plants or animals that are in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of their ranges and that have been listed as endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service following the procedures outlined in the Endangered Species Act and its implementing regulations..

**Environmental Assessment :** A concise public document for which a Federal agency is responsible. An EA serves (1) to briefly provide enough evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) or a finding of no significant impact; and (2) to aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no EIS is needed; and (3) to facilitate preparation of an EIS when one is needed.

**Environmental Impact Statement:** An analytical document that portrays potential impacts on the human environment of a particular course of action and its possible alternatives. The document is released to the public for review and comment. Required by the National Environmental Policy Act, an EIS is prepared for use by decision makers to assess the environmental consequences of a potential decision. An EIS must meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed action.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people, including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic groups, should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, State, local, and tribal programs and policies. Executive Order 12898 directs Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of their missions by identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of agency programs, policies, and activities on minority and low-income populations.

**Erosion:** Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of surface-disturbing activities of people, animals or natural catastrophes.

**Exclusion area:** An environmentally sensitive area where rights-of-way would be granted only in cases where there is a legal requirement to provide such access.

**Extraction:** The removal of mineral resources from the land by mining, quarrying, or excavation.

## **F**

**Federal Lands:** Lands, or interests in lands (such as easements and rights-of-way), owned by the United States.

**Federal Undertaking:** A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency including those carried out on or on behalf of the agency, those carried out with Federal financial assistance, those requiring a Federal permit license or approval, and

those subject to state or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal agency.

**Fire Frequency:** A general term referring to the recurrence of fire in a given area over time. It is sometimes stated as number of fires per unit time in a designated area. It is also used to refer to the probability of an element burning per unit time

**Fire Intensity:** derived from the energy content of the fuel, the mass of fuel consumed, and the rate of spread of the fire. The units of fireline intensity reflect energy release (kW) per unit length (m) of the fireline: energy release along a linear front. The length of the flames of a fire can be related to its intensity.

**Fire Regime:** The characteristics of fire in a given ecosystem, including factors such as frequency, intensity, severity, and patch size. The terms used for the different fire regimes are Nonlethal, Mixed 1, Mixed 2, and Lethal. Nonlethal fires are generally of the lowest intensity and severity with the smallest patches of mortality, while lethal fires are generally of the highest intensity and severity with the largest patches of mortality. The others fall in between.

**Fire Regime Condition Classes:** Fire Regime Condition Classes are a qualitative measure describing the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire exclusion, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, introduced insects and disease, or other management activities.

**Fluid Minerals:** Oil, gas, geothermal resources, carbon dioxide, and coalbed methane.

**Forage:** All browse and herbaceous growth available and acceptable to grazing animals or that may be harvested for feeding purposes. Forage includes pasture, rangelands, and crop aftermath. Feed includes forage, hay and grains.

**Forb:** An herbaceous plant that is not a grass, sedge, or bush.

**Form:** The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified.

## G

**Game Species:** Any species of wildlife or fish that is managed for hunters.

**Goal:** The desired state or condition that a resource management policy or program is designed to achieve. Broader and less specific than objectives, goals are usually not measurable and may not have specific dates by which they must be reached. Objectives are developed by first understanding and defining goals.

**Grazing:** Consumption of native forage from rangelands or pastures by livestock or wildlife.

**Grazing Allotment:** An area where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. An allotment generally consists of Federal public land but may include parcels of private or state-owned land.

**Grazing Fee:** A charge, usually on a monthly basis, for grazing a specific kind of livestock.

**Grazing Lease:** A document authorizing use of public lands outside an established grazing district. Grazing leases specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Leases specify the total number of AUMs apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both.

**Grazing Permit:** An authorization that allows grazing on public lands. Permits specify class of livestock on a designated area during specified seasons each year.

**Groundwater:** Water below the ground surface in a zone of saturation.

**Guidelines:** Management approaches, methods, and practices that are intended to achieve a standard. Guidelines typically (1) identify and prescribe methods of influencing or controlling specific public land uses, (2) are developed and applied consistent with the desired condition and within site capability, and (3) may be adjusted over time.

## H

**Habitat:** A specific set of physical conditions in a geographic area(s) that surrounds a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are food, water, cover, and living space.

**Habitat Management Plan:** A written and officially approved plan for a specific geographical area of public land that identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

**Hazardous Materials:** Substances or mixtures of substances that have the capability of either causing or significantly contributing to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, or posing a substantial present or potential risk to human health or the environment. Hazardous wastes are defined as wastes or combination of wastes that, because of quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics, may either cause, or significantly contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. Hazardous wastes are products or by-products of hazardous materials. In order to be classified as hazardous, wastes must either appear on a series of lists compiled by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or demonstrate the characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity.

**Hazardous Waste:** The Resource Conservation and Recovery Act defines hazardous waste as a solid waste that may cause an increase in mortality or serious illness or pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed. A waste is hazardous if it exhibits characteristics of ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and/or toxicity.

**Haze:** An atmospheric aerosol of sufficient concentration to be visible. The particles are so small that they cannot be seen individually, but are still effective in scene distortion and visual range restriction.

**Historic Fire Regime:** A classification of the effects of ecosystem disturbance caused by fire over time and space. Generally encompasses the period between 1500 to late 1800, before extensive settlement by European-Americans in many parts of North America, before intense conversion of wildlands for agricultural and other purposes, and before fire suppression effectively reduced fire frequency in many areas. Sometimes referred to as “presettlement” fire regimes.

# I

**Infiltration:** The downward entry of water into soil or other material.

**Interdisciplinary Team:** A team of varied land use and resource specialists formed to provide a coordinated, integrated information base for overall land use planning and management.

# J

**Jurisdiction:** The legal right to control or regulate use of land or a facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.

# K

# L

**Land Use Plan:** Any document developed to define the kinds of use, goals and objectives, management practices, and activities that will be allowed to occur on an individual parcel or group of land parcels.

**Landform:** A discernible natural landscape that exists as a result of geological activity, such as a plateau, plain, basin, or mountain.

**Landscape:** An aggregate of different but interacting landforms, sometimes united by a cultural attribute (e.g., a mosaic of farmland, including tilled fields, woodlots, stock ponds, swales, and fencerows). Landscape ecology generally operates at a scale of at least many acres/hectares or, more often, several square miles/square kilometers.

**Leasable Minerals:** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulfur, potassium, and sodium minerals, and oil, gas, and geothermal resources.

**Lease:** An authorization or contract by which one party (lessor) conveys the use of property, such as real estate, to another (lessee) in return for rental payments. In addition to rental payments, lessees also pay royalties (a percentage of value) to the lessor from resource production.

**Line:** The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture or when objects are aligned in a one-dimensional sequence. Usually evident as the edge of shapes or masses in the landscape.

**Locatable Mineral:** Any valuable mineral that is not saleable or leasable including gold, silver, copper, uranium, etc., that may be developed under the General Mining Law of 1872.

**Low-income populations:** Defined in terms of Bureau of the Census annual statistical poverty levels (Current Population Reports, Series P-60 on Income and Poverty), may consist of groups or individuals who live in geographic proximity to one another or who are geographically dispersed or transient (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect.

# M

**Management Actions/Practices:** Actions or practices that improve or maintain basic soil and vegetation resources. Rangeland practices typically consist of watershed treatments (planting, seeding, burning, rest, vegetation manipulation, grazing management) in an attempt to establish desired vegetation species or communities.

## **Maintenance Intensity Definitions:**

**Level 0 Maintenance Description:** Existing routes that will no longer be maintained or declared as routes. Routes identified as Level 0 are identified for removal from the Transportation System entirely.

**Level 1 Maintenance Description:** Routes where minimal (low-intensity) maintenance is required to protect adjacent lands and resource values. These roads may be impassable for extended periods of time.

**Level 3 Maintenance Description:** Routes requiring moderate maintenance because of low-volume use (e.g., seasonally or year-round for commercial, recreational, or administrative access). Maintenance Intensities may not provide year-round access, but are intended to generally provide resources appropriate for keeping the route in use for the majority of the year.

**Level 5 Maintenance Description:** Routes for high (Maximum) maintenance because of year-round needs, high-volume traffic, or significant use. Also may include routes identified through management objectives as requiring high intensities of maintenance or to be maintained open year-round

**Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques:** A set of strategies utilized by wildland firefighters to suppressing wildfire while causing the fewest possible impacts to natural and/ or cultural resources in the vicinity.

**Minority Populations:** Minority populations exist where either (a) the minority population of the affected area exceeds 50 percent or (b) the minority population percentage of the affected area is meaningfully greater than in the general population or other appropriate unit of geographic analysis (such as a governing body's jurisdiction, a neighborhood, census tract, or other similar unit). "Minority" refers to individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black, not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic. Minority populations include either a single minority group or the total of all minority persons in the affected area. They may consist of groups of individuals living in geographic proximity to one another or a geographically dispersed / transient set of individuals (such as migrant workers or Native Americans), where either type of group experiences common conditions of environmental exposure or effect.

**Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST):** A Set of strategies utilized by wildland firefighters to suppressing wildfire while causing the fewest possible impacts to natural and/or cultural resources in the vicinity.

**Multiple Use:** Multiple use as defined by the Multiple Use – Sustained Yield Act 1960 means (1) the management of all the various renewable surface resources so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people, (2) making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions, (3) that some land will be used

for less than all of the resources, and (4) harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will be given the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

## N

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the Federal Government. The air quality standards are divided into primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare) from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA):** An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and established the Council on Environmental Quality.

**National Register of Historic Places (National Register):** The official list of the Nation's cultural resources that are worthy of preservation. The National Park Service maintains the list under direction of the Secretary of the Interior. Buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts are included in the National Register for their importance in American history, architecture, archeology, culture, or engineering. Properties included on the National Register range from large-scale, monumentally proportioned buildings to smaller scale, regionally distinctive buildings. The listed properties are not just of nationwide importance; most are significant primarily at the State or local level.

**Native Species:** With respect to a particular ecosystem, a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

**Naturalness:** A characteristic of lands where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Imprints of human activity typically include travel routes or trails, fences, and other landscape modifications.

**Nonattainment Area:** An area that does not meet (or that contributes to ambient air quality in a nearby area that does not meet) any of the Federal primary or secondary ambient air quality standards for the pollutant.

**Noxious Weeds:** Plant species that have been legally designated as unwanted or undesirable. This includes national, State and county or local designations. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Law, native plant species are not designated "noxious." Native plant species that may be of a management concern, such as poisonous plants or desert shrub and subshrub species, are not considered priorities for noxious weed work or funding.

**Nutrient Cycle:** The process of use, release, and reuse of elements by plants and animals through uptake by incorporation into and decomposition of organisms. Elements involved in nutrient cycling remain in the vicinity of the earth's surface.

## O

**Objectives:** The planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Objectives are subordinate to goals, more narrow in scope, and shorter in range. Objectives must specify time periods for completion, and products or achievements that are measurable.

**Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) or Off-Road Vehicle:** Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

### Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Designations:

**Open:** An area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in 43 CFR Subparts 8341 and 8342.

**Limited Area:** An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular use. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be accommodated within the following type of categories: Numbers of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing roads and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions. In areas limited to designated routes, motorized uses are allowed on the designated routes, with reasonable use of the shoulder and immediate roadside, allowing for vehicle passage, emergency stopping, or parking, unless otherwise posted.

**Closed:** An area where off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons; however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

**Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):** A gas that is a variety of oxygen. The oxygen gas found in the air consists of two oxygen atoms stuck together; this is molecular oxygen. Ozone consists of three oxygen atoms stuck together into an ozone molecule. Ozone occurs in nature; it produces the sharp smell you notice near a lightning strike. High concentrations of ozone gas are found in a layer of the atmosphere—the stratosphere—high above the earth. Stratospheric ozone shields the earth against harmful rays from the sun, particularly ultraviolet B. Smog's main component is ozone; this ground-level ozone is a product of reactions among chemicals produced by burning coal, gasoline, and other fuels, and chemicals found in products including solvents, paints, hairsprays, etc.

## P

**Particulate Matter:** Includes dust, soot, and other tiny bits of solid materials that are released into and move around in the air. Particulates are produced by many sources, including burning of diesel fuels by trucks and buses, incineration of garbage, mixing and application of fertilizers and pesticides, road construction, industrial processes such as steel making, mining operations, agricultural burning (field and slash burning), and operation of fireplaces and woodstoves.

**Permit:** Permits are one of three forms of a land use authorization (the others are leases and easements). Permits are short-term, revocable authorizations to use public lands for specific purposes that involve either little or no land improvement, construction, or investment that can be amortized within the term of

the permit. A permit conveys no possessory interest. The permit is renewable at the discretion of the authorized officer and may be revoked in accordance with its terms and applicable regulations.

**pH:** A number used by chemists to express the acidity of solutions, including water. A pH value lower than 7 indicates an acidic solution, a value of 7 is neutral, and a value of higher than 7 indicates an alkaline solution. Most groundwater in the United States has pH values ranging from about 6.0 to 8.5.

**Planning Area:** As used in this document, includes all land within the planning area boundaries regardless of jurisdiction or ownership.

**Preference:** Grazing preference or preference means a superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease. This priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee.

**Prevention of Significant Deterioration (air):** A Clean Air Act requirement to include a permit review process applicable to the construction and operation of new and modified stationary sources in attainment areas.

**Primitive Recreation:** Includes non-motorized, nonmechanical forms of recreation, such as hiking or bird watching, in areas without or with minimal developed recreation facilities.

**Primitive Road:** A linear route managed for four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. Primitive roads do not normally meet any BLM road design standards.

## Q

## R

**Range Improvement:** An authorized physical modification or treatment designed to improve production of forage; change vegetation composition; control patterns of use; provide water; stabilize soil and water conditions; and restore, protect and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems to benefit livestock, wild horses, burros, fish and wildlife. The term includes, but is not limited to, the structure, treatment projects, and use of mechanical devices, or modifications achieved through mechanical means.

**Rangeland:** A type of land on which the native vegetation or natural potential consists predominantly of grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangeland includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a plant cover that is managed like native vegetation. Rangelands may consist of natural grasslands, savannas, shrub lands, moist deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

**Reclamation:** Rehabilitation of a disturbed area to make it acceptable for designated use. This normally involves regrading, replacement of topsoil, revegetation and other work necessary to restore it for use.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP):** A land use plan that establishes land use allocations, multiple-use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area. The RMP planning system has been used by the BLM since 1980.

**Restore/Restoration:** The process of returning an ecosystem as closely as possible to the pre-disturbance condition and function. Note: restoration involves restoring a site to a specific point in time.

**Revegetate:** The replacement of vegetation into a disturbed area with little or no concern for ecological conditions or functions.

**Right-of-Way:** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, pursuant to a right-of-way authorization.

**Riparian:** Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water, including areas of transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence.

**Riparian Habitat:** Riparian habitat is an ecological transition between an in-stream community of plants and animals and the adjacent, upland community. Normally the term is used for perennial, or year-round flowing streams. However, in Arizona the term xeroriparian habitat is used to describe the distinct plant and animal communities that concentrate around dry washes and are sustained by desert storms.

**Roads:** Linear route declared a road by the owner, managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having four or more wheels, and maintained for regular and continuous use.

## S

**Salable Minerals:** Minerals that may be sold under the Material Sale Act of 1947, as amended. Included are common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, and clay.

**Saturated:** When referring to soil, the maximum amount of water that can be held either when the soil is frozen or the spaces between the soil particles are filled with water. Any additional seepage over saturated soil will result in runoff.

**Scale:** The proportionate size relationship between an object and the surroundings in which it is placed.

**Scenic Quality:** The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view. Seven factors (landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications) are examined to evaluate the scenic quality of a landscape. The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating. The scenic quality-rating unit is defined as a portion of the landscape, which displays primarily homogenous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (land and water form, vegetation, and structures).

**Scoping:** An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an environmental impact statement and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

**Sensitive Species:** Species not yet officially listed but that are undergoing status review for listing on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's official threatened and endangered list; species whose populations are small and widely dispersed or restricted to a few localities; and species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may be necessary.

**Solitude:** Occurs in areas where the sights, sounds, and evidence of human activity are rare or infrequent and where visitors can be isolated, alone, or secluded from others.

**Special Status Species:** Plant or animal species listed as threatened, endangered, candidate, or sensitive by State governments or the Federal government.

**Standards:** Goals for the desired condition of the biological and physical components and characteristics of rangelands. Standards (1) are measurable and attainable; and (2) comply with various Federal and State statutes, policies, and directives applicable to BLM rangelands.

**Structural Diversity:** The diversity of the composition, abundance, spacing, and other attributes of plants in a community.

**Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>):** A gas produced by burning coal, most notably in power plants. Some industrial processes, such as production of paper and smelting of metals, produce sulfur dioxide. Sulfur dioxide is closely related to sulfuric acid, a strong acid. Sulfur dioxide plays an important role in the production of acid rain.

**Surface Disturbance:** The physical disturbance, which alters the structure and composition of vegetation and topsoil/ subsoil.

**Surface Water:** All bodies of water on the surface of the earth and open to the atmosphere, such as rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, seas, and estuaries.

**Sustained Yield:** The concept of steady-state management of timber, wildlife, and many other natural resources. Consumption is matched by production.

## T

**Texture:** The aggregation of small forms or color mixtures into a continuous surface pattern; the aggregated parts are enough that they do not appear as discrete objects in the composition of the scene.

**Total Dissolved Solids:** The total quantity (reported in milligrams per liter) of dissolved materials in water.

**Toxicity:** A characteristic defining a hazardous waste. Toxicity refers to the ability of a material to produce injury or disease on exposure, ingestion, inhalation, and assimilation by a living organism.

**Trail:** Linear route managed for human powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of recreation or for historic or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

**Trend:** The direction of change over time, either toward or away from desired management objectives.

## U

**Uplands:** Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

## V

**Viable:** A [wildlife] population that has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure its continued existence.

**Viewshed:** The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

**Visual Resources:** The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features). Visual resources are managed by inventory and planning actions taken to identify resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

## W

**Watershed:** The land area that drains water to a particular stream, river, or lake. It is a land feature that can be identified by tracing a line along the highest elevations between two areas on a map, often a ridge.

**Water Quality:** The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Weed:** A non-native plant that disrupts or has the potential to disrupt or alter the natural ecosystem function, composition, and diversity of the site it occupies. Its presence deteriorates the health of the site, it makes efficient use of natural resources difficult, and it may interfere with management objectives for that site.

**Wetlands:** Those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (e.g., sloughs, potholes, wet meadows, river overflow areas, mudflats, natural ponds).

**Wildland Urban Interface:** The area where developed and undeveloped lands meet.

## X

**Xeroriparian Habitat:** The distinct plant and animal communities that concentrate around dry washes and are sustained by desert storms.

## Y

## Z