
7.0 GLOSSARY

abandon: To cease producing oil or gas from a well when it becomes unprofitable. Usually, some of the casing is removed and salvaged, and one or more cement plugs placed in the borehole to prevent migration of fluids between formations.

acre foot: A volume of water that covers an area of one acre to a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

affected environment: The area potentially affected by the proposed action and alternatives analyzed in a NEPA document.

allotment: An area of land where one or more permittees graze their livestock. Generally consists of public land but may include parcels of private or State lands. The number of livestock and season of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of several pastures or be only one pasture.

alluvium: Clay, silt, sand, and gravel or other rock material transported by flowing water and deposited as sorted or semi-sorted sediments.

ambient air quality: The state of the atmosphere at ground-level as defined by the range of measured and/or predicted ambient concentrations of all significant pollutants for all averaging periods of interest.

ambient concentration: The mass of a pollutant in a given volume of air. It is typically measured as micrograms of pollutant per cubic meter of air.

ambient: The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which changes or impacts are measured.

ancillary facilities: Facilities often required in an oil and gas field other than the wells and pipelines, such as compressor stations.

animal unit month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow/calf pair for 1 month.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD): The Department of the Interior's application permit form to authorize oil and gas drilling activities on federal land.

aquifer: A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding water, or the part of a water-driven reservoir that contains the aquifer.

background concentration: The existing levels of air pollutant concentration in a given region. In general, it includes natural and existing emission sources, but not future emission sources.

badland: Steep or very steep, commonly non-stony barren land dissected by many intermittent drainage channels. Badland is most common in semi-arid and arid regions where streams are entrenched in soft geologic material. Runoff potential is very high, and geologic erosion is active in such areas.

borehole: The circular hole made by drilling, and extending from the surface to the gas resource to be recovered.

casing: Steel pipe placed in an oil or gas well to prevent the hole from collapsing.

completion: The activities and methods to prepare a well for production. Includes installation of equipment for production from an oil or gas well.

condensate: Hydrocarbons contained in the natural gas stream and removed by condensation. Condensates are a saleable by-product of the gas recovery process.

conglomerate: A sedimentary rock comprised of an unstratified mixture or stratified layers of cobbles, gravel, and sand.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

critical elements of the human environment: A list of 14 resource concerns that must be addressed in every NEPA document.

crucial range: Any particular seasonal range or habitat component that has been documented as the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain itself at a certain level over the long-term.

cultural resources: The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) and the conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, such as a sacred area of native peoples, etc.) of an area of prehistoric or historic occupation.

cumulative impact: The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taken place over a period of time (40 C.F.R. 1508.7).

cuttings: The material removed from the borehole by the drill bit and lifted to the surface.

directional drilling: The intentional deviation of a well bore from vertical to reach subsurface areas off to one side from the drilling site.

discharge: The volume of water flowing past a point per unit time, commonly expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs), gallons per minute (gpm), or million gallons per day (mgd).

drainage: Natural channel through which water flows some time of the year. Natural and artificial means for effecting discharge of water as by a system of surface and subsurface passages.

drilling fluid: Fluid used to lubricate and cool the drill bit, assist in lifting cutting from the borehole, and control pressures in the borehole.

drilling mud: The circulating fluid used to bring cuttings out of the well bore, cool the drill bit, and provide hole stability and pressure control. Drilling mud includes a number of additives to maintain the mud at desired viscosities and weights. Some additives that may be used are caustic, toxic, or acidic.

earthquake: Sudden movement of the earth's crust resulting from faulting, volcanism, or other mechanisms.

emission factor: An empirically derived mathematical relationship between pollutant emission rate and some characteristic of the source such as volume, area, mass, or process output.

emission: Air pollution discharge into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time.

endangered species (animal): Any animal species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This definition excludes species of insects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be pests and whose protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

endangered species (plant): Species of plants in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. Existence may be endangered because of the destruction, drastic change, or severe curtailment of habitat, or because of over exploitation, disease, predation, or even unknown reasons. Plant taxa from very limited areas (e.g. the type localities only), or from restricted fragile habitats usually are considered endangered.

environment: The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

environmental impact statement (EIS): An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable environmental impacts, including physical, biological, economic, and social consequences and their interactions; short- and long-term impacts; direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

ephemeral drainage: A drainage area or a stream that has no base flow. Water flows for a short time each year but only in direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events.

erosion: The removal, detachment, and entrainment of earth materials by weathering, dissolution, abrasion, and corrosion, later to be transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers.

fault: A fracture in bedrock along which there has been vertical and/or horizontal movement caused by differential forces in the earth's crust.

floodplain: That portion of a river valley, adjacent to the channel, which is built of recently deposited sediments and is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood stages.

forage: Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.

forb: A broad-leaved flowering herb other than grass.

frac (fracturing): A method of stimulating well production by increasing the permeability of the producing formation. Under extremely high hydraulic pressure, the fracturing fluid (water, oil, dilute hydrochloric acid, or other fluid) is pumped into the formation which parts or fractures it. Proppants or propping agents such as sand or glass beads are pumped into the formation as part of the fracturing job. The proppants become wedged in the open fractures, leaving channels for oil to flow into the well after the hydraulic fracture pressure is released. This process is often called a "frac job." When high concentrations of acid are used, it may be called an "acid frac job."

groundwater: Water contained in the pore spaces of consolidated and unconsolidated surface material.

habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

human environment: The factors that include, but are not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

hydrostatic testing: Testing of the integrity of a newly placed, but uncovered pipeline for leaks. The pipeline is filled with water and pressurized to operating pressures, and the pipeline is visually inspected.

impacts: These include: a) Direct impacts, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place; b) Indirect impacts, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect impacts may include growth inducing impacts and other impacts related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related impacts on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. Impacts include ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative. Impacts may also include those resulting from actions which may have both beneficial and detrimental impacts, even if on balance the agency believes that the impact will be beneficial (40 C.F.R. 1508.8).

impoundment: The accumulation of any form of water in a reservoir or other storage area.

increment: Incremental standards (prevention of significant deterioration) are the maximum amounts of pollutants allowed above the baseline in regions of clean air.

infrastructure: The basic framework or underlying foundation of a community including road networks, electric and gas distribution, water and sanitation services, and facilities.

interdisciplinary team (IDT): A group selected to work within the NEPA process in scoping, analysis, and document preparation. The purpose of the team is to integrate its collective knowledge of the physical, biological, economic, and social sciences and the environmental design arts into the environmental analysis process. Interaction among team members often provides insight that otherwise would not be apparent.

intermittent stream: A stream or reach of a stream that drains a watershed of at least one square mile; or a stream or reach of a stream that is below the local water table for at least some part of the year, and obtains its flow from both surface runoff and groundwater discharge.

land use: Land uses determined for a given area that establish the types of activities allowed (e.g., mining, agriculture, timber production, residential, industrial).

lease: (1) A legal document that conveys to an operator the right to drill for oil and gas. (2) The tract of land on which a lease has been obtained, where producing wells and production equipment are located.

lek: An assembly area for communal courtship display, usually in reference to greater sage-grouse or other grouse.

life-of-project (LOP): Begins with the first disturbance authorized under the ROD for this project and ends when all wells are plugged and abandoned and all surface disturbance meets the reclamation performance objective of 80% of original cover and plant composition.

lithic scatter: A surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris that consists entirely of lithic (stone) tools and chipped stone debris. This is a common prehistoric site type that is contrasted to a cultural material scatter, which contains other or additional artifact types such as pottery or bone artifacts, to a camp which contains habitation features, such as hearths, storage features or occupation features, or to other site types that contain different artifacts or features.

log: A systematic recording of data, as from the driller's log, mud log, electrical well log, or radioactivity log. Many different logs may be run to obtain various characteristics of downhole formations.

long-term impacts: For the purpose of this project, long-term impacts are those that last for the life of the project or beyond.

mitigate: To lessen the severity.

mitigation measures: Actions taken to reduce or minimize potential impacts to the environment.

mitigation: Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

monitor: To systematically and repeatedly watch, observe, or measure environmental conditions in order to track changes.

mud system: A system used to manage suspended mud in the well-drilling process.

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 (NEPA): The federal law established in 1969, which went into effect on January 1, 1970, that (1) established a national policy for the environment, (2) requires federal agencies to become aware of the environmental ramifications of their proposed actions, (3) requires full disclosure to the public of proposed federal actions and a mechanism for public input into the federal decision-making process, and (4) requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement for every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

National Register of Historic Places: A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture.

natural gas: Those hydrocarbons, other than oil and other than natural gas liquids separated from natural gas, that occur naturally in the gaseous phase in the reservoir and are produced and recovered at the wellhead in gaseous form. Natural gas includes coal bed methane gas.

No Action Alternative: The management direction, activities, outputs, and effects likely to exist in the future if the current plan would continue unchanged.

no surface occupancy: A stipulation in a lease that disallows any surface disturbance in the lease area at any time. Natural gas or oil, for instance, would have to be recovered by directional drilling.

noxious weeds: Officially designated undesirable or invading weedy species generally introduced into an area due to human activity.

oil and gas field: A natural accumulation of oil and gas in the subsurface. Oil and gas may be present in two or more reservoirs at different depths.

oil and gas lease: A federal oil and gas lease is a legal document that gives the lease holder the right to explore for and develop any oil and gas that may be present under the area designated in the lease while complying with any surface use conditions which may have been stipulated when the lease was issued.

ozone: A molecule containing three oxygen atoms (O₃) produced by passage of an electrical spark through air or oxygen (O₂).

particulate matter: A particle of soil or liquid matter (e.g., soot, dust, aerosols, fumes and mist).

perennial stream: A stream or reach of a stream that flows throughout the year.

physiographic province: A region having a pattern of relief features or landforms that differs significantly from adjacent regions.

physiographic: pertaining to the genesis and evolution of landforms.

PM_{2.5}: Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less.

PM₁₀: Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less.

preferred alternative: The alternative identified in the EIS as the action favored by the agency.

prevention of significant deterioration of air quality (PSD): A classification established to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in National Wilderness Preservation System areas in existence prior to August 1977 and other areas of National significance, while ensuring economic growth can occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources. Specific emission limitations and other measures, by class, are detailed in the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1875 et 15q.).

produced water: Formation water pumped during the development of a gas well.

production casing: Steel pipe installed in the borehole to isolate all formation in the borehole and eliminate communication between hydrocarbon-bearing zones and/or water aquifers and other mineral resources.

PSD increments: The maximum allowable increase in pollutant concentrations permitted over baseline conditions as specified in the EPA prevention of significant deterioration (PSD) regulations (40 C.F.R. Part 52.21). The regulations apply only to area currently attaining NAAQS/WAAQS. Most National parks and wilderness areas are Class I Areas, where almost no future pollution increase is permitted. Most other areas are Class II Areas, where moderate increases in pollution levels are allowed.

range: Land producing native forage for animal consumption and lands that are revegetated naturally or artificially to provide forage cover that is managed like native vegetation, which are amenable to certain range management principles or practices.

raptor: A group of carnivorous birds consisting of hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, vultures, and owls.

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

record of decision (ROD): A decision document for an environmental impact statement or supplemental EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision regarding the actions proposed in the EIS and their implementation.

reserve pit: (1) Usually an excavated pit that may be lined with plastic, that holds drill cuttings and waste mud. (2) Term for the pit which holds the drilling mud.

reserves: Identified resources of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can be extracted profitably with existing technology and under present economic conditions.

revegetation: The re-establishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, human assistance will speed natural processes by seed bed preparation, reseeding and mulching.

rig: A collective term to describe the permanent equipment needed when drilling a well.

right-of-way (ROW): The legal right for use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or purposes.

riparian: Land areas which are directly influenced by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streamsides and lake borders are typical riparian areas.

roosting: To rest or sleep in a roost. A bird will typically use the same roost for an extended period of time.

runoff: That part of precipitation that appears in surface streams; precipitation that is not retained on the site where it falls and is not absorbed by the soil.

scatter (archeological): Random evidence of prior disturbance that is distributed about an area rather than concentrated in a single location.

scoping: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, and written comments in response to news releases, direct mailings, and articles about the proposed action and scoping meetings.

sediment: Soil or mineral transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers, and deposited in streams or other bodies of water, or on land.

seismic: Pertaining to an earthquake or earth vibration, including those that are artificially induced.

short-term impacts: For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, short-term impacts are generally defined as those that would last for 5 years or less.

significant impact: A meaningful standard to which an action may impact the environment. The impact may be beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, or cumulative, and may have short-term or long-term impacts.

soil: Loose, unconsolidated surface material comprising topsoil and subsoil.

spacing: The number of acres per given well. For instance, 160-acre spacing means that one well would be drilled in each quarter section (160 acres), or up to four wells per section (640 acres).

species: (1) The classification level of biological nomenclature which categorized each group of related organisms potentially capable of interbreeding; (2) the accepted level of classification to differentiate one specific type of organism from another.

stipulation: A legal requirement, specifically a requirement that is part of the terms of a mineral lease. Some stipulations are standard on all federal leases. Other stipulations may be applied to the lease at the discretion of the surface management agency to protect valuable surface resources.

strata: An identifiable layer of bedrock or sediment; does not imply a particular thickness of rock.

substrate: Material consisting of silts, sands, gravels, boulder and woody debris found on the bottom of a stream channel.

threatened and endangered species: Any species, plant or animal, which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

topography: The features of the earth, including relief, vegetation, and waters.

vegetation type: A plant community with visually distinguishable characteristics, named for the apparent dominant species.

vegetation: All of the plants growing in and characterizing a specific area or region; the combination of different plant communities found there.

visual resource: The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetation patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for viewers.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): A system of visual management used by the BLM. The program has a dual purpose, to manage the quality of the visual environment and to reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all Bureau resource programs. VRM also identifies scenic areas that warrant protection through special management attention. The system uses five classes for categorizing visual resources.

Class 1 - Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. Any contrasts created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. This classification is applied to wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other similar situations.

Class 2 - Changes in any of the basic elements (form line, color, texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Contrasts are seen, but must not attract attention.

Class 3 - Contrasts to the basic elements caused by a management activity are evident, but should remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

Class 4 - Any contrast attracts attention and is a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale, but it should repeat the form, line, color and texture of the characteristic landscape.

Class 5 - The classification is applied to areas where the natural character of the landscape has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring it up to one of the four other classifications. The classification also applies to areas where unacceptable cultural modification

has lowered scenic quality; it is often used as an interim classification until objectives of another class can be reached.

water quality: Refers to a set of chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that describe the condition of a river, stream, or lake. The quality of water determines which beneficial uses it can support. Different instream conditions or levels of water quality are required to support different beneficial uses.

watershed: The total land area that drains to a given location.

well: Refers to a well bore or bottomholes, several of which may be drilled from a single well pad.

well pad: Relatively flat work area that is used for drilling a well and producing from the well once it is completed. The term “well pad” as used in this EIS identifies the surface location from which a single or multiple wells or well bores or bottomholes may be drilled.

well bore: The hole drilled from the surface to the gas-bearing formation.

wetlands: Areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

winter range: The place where migratory (and sometimes non-migratory) animals congregate during the winter season.
