
CHAPTER 8 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 are placed in the borehole to prevent migration of fluids between formations.

acre-foot or acre-feet (acre-ft): The volume of water that covers a one-acre area at a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

ad valorem: Taxes levied according to assessed value.

aeolian: Refers to landforms shaped by wind or sediments transported and deposited by wind.

affected environment: The resource values potentially affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives analyzed in a NEPA document.

algal: Of, pertaining to, or composed of algae.

alkaline: Having the quality of a base (pH of 7.0 or greater).

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 one or several pastures.

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

ambient air: The portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the public has general access (40 CFR 50).

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

ambient standards: The absolute maximum level of a pollutant allowed to protect either public health (primary) or welfare (secondary).

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 (e.g., compressor stations).

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

anticline: An area of rock deformation characterized by a downward slope to either side. In an exposed anticline, the oldest rock layers are in the center and the rocks on either side dip or slope away from the center of the structure. If covered by an impermeable layer of rock, an anticline is a potential oil or gas reservoir.

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

aquifer: A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding water.

archaeological: The scientific studies of ancient peoples and cultures by analysis of physical remains (artifacts).

arcuate: Curved like a bow.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area on public lands designated for special management to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; other natural systems or processes; or human life and safety.

atmospheric deposition: A process by which air pollutants fall out of the atmosphere and are deposited on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These pollutants are deposited via wet deposition (precipitation) and dry deposition (gravitational settling of particles and gaseous pollutants that adhere to soil, water, and vegetation).

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.

badlands: Steep or very steep, commonly non-stony barren lands dissected by many intermittent drainage channels. Badlands are 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.

berm: A raised area with vertical or sloping sides.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Structural, nonstructural, and managerial techniques that are recognized to be the most effective and practical means to prevent or minimize environmental impacts, yet are still compatible with the productive use of the resource to which they are applied.

calcareous: Containing calcium carbonate.

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

cementing: The process by which cement is used to “set” casing in the well bore and to seal off unproductive formations and apertures.

colluvium: A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually located at the foot of a slope or cliff and typically brought there by forces of gravity.

commercial well: A well capable of producing profitably.

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

condensate (gas condensate): Hydrocarbons (oil) contained in the natural gas stream, often removed by condensation.

conditions of approval (COAs): A set of restrictions, or conditions, included in the approval of a federal permit, including NEPA documents.

conglomerate: Rounded water-worn fragments of rock or pebbles cemented together by another mineral substance.

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.

Cretaceous Period: The most recent period of the Mesozoic Era, between 136 and 65 million years ago.

criteria pollutants: Air pollutants for which the EPA has established state and national ambient air quality standards. These include particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

critical elements of the human environment: A list of 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.

cryptobiotic soils: A biological soil crust composed of living cyanobacteria, green algae, brown algae, fungi, lichens, and/or mosses. Commonly found in arid regions around the world, cryptobiotic soils are important members of desert ecosystems and contribute to the well being of other plants by stabilizing sand and dirt, promoting moisture retention, and fixing atmospheric nitrogen.

cubic feet per second (cfs): The rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot of water passing a given point during 1 second.

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 that 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 CFR 1508.7).

decibel: A unit of measurement of noise intensity based on the energy of the sound waves. Changes of 5 decibels or more are normally discernible to the human ear.

deciview: The unit of measurement of haze developed to uniformly describe levels of monitored and modeled visibility impairment.

directional drilling: The intentional deviation of a wellbore from vertical to reach subsurface areas off to one side from the surface 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).

dispersion: The spreading out of pollutants. Generally used to show the extent to which an air pollutant will spread from a particular point.

displacement: As applied to wildlife, forced shifts in the patterns of wildlife use, either in location or timing of use.

disposal well: A well into which produced water from other wells is injected into an underground formation for disposal.

disruptive activities: Those authorized Public Land resource uses/activities that are likely to alter the behavior, displace, or cause excessive stress to existing animal or human populations occurring at a specific location and/or time. This term does not apply to the physical disturbance of the land surface, vegetation, or features.

dissolved solids: The total amount of dissolved material, organic and inorganic, contained in water or wastes.

diversity: The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species.

drainage: Natural channel through which water flows at least part of the year.

drill rig: The mast, draw works, and attendant surface equipment of a drilling unit.

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

drought: Prolonged dry weather (precipitation less than 75% of average annual amount).

ecosystem: An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment (e.g., forest, marsh, and stream ecosystems).

emergent vegetation: Erect, rooted, herbaceous plants that project out of or emerge from the water.

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

endangered species: A species that is in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue. Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines "endangered species" as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

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; and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

Eocene: The second epoch of the Cenozoic Era; the start of the Eocene is marked by the emergence of the first modern mammals.

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.

epicenter: The portion of the earth's surface directly above the focus of an earthquake.

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.

evaporitic: Sediments that are deposited from aqueous solution as a result of extensive or total evaporation of the solvent.

exploratory well: A well that is drilled to evaluate the gas or oil resources that may be present.

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

federal lands: All lands and interests in lands owned by the U.S. that are subject to the mineral leasing laws, including mineral resources or mineral estates reserved to the U.S. in the conveyance of a surface or non-mineral estate.

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

fluvial: Of or pertaining to rivers.

forage: Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.

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

formation: A body of earth material with distinctive and characteristic physical properties. A formation may be a made of rock or of unconsolidated material such as sand, gravel and clay and can be mapped on the earth's surface or traced in the subsurface.

fugitive dust: Airborne particles emitted from any source other than a controllable stack or vent.

gas reservoir: The "pool" of oil or gas that is being tapped.

gathering pipelines: Pipelines within a field that transport gas or oil from the well to a central production facility or to the point of sale.

Global Positioning System (GPS): Computer software that records and stores coordinates for positions on earth via satellite.

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

habitat function: The arrangement of habitat features and capability of those features to sustain species, population, and diversity of wildlife over time.

halogeton: A coarse annual herb introduced into North America from Siberia; dangerous to sheep and cattle on western rangelands because of its high oxalate content.

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.

hydrocarbon: A compound formed from carbon and hydrogen (e.g., oil and gas).

hydrology: A science that deals with the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface and subsurface water.

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: 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. Direct impacts are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place; indirect impacts are caused by the action but occur later in time or are farther removed in distance.

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

infiltration: The movement of water or some other liquid into the soil or rock through pores or other openings.

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

injection well: A well that is used to inject produced water from drilling operations in order to maintain pressure or to bring a field back under pressure.

interdisciplinary team (IDT): A group of federal and cooperating agencies 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.

interim reclamation: Reclamation initiated on well pads, roads, and pipelines after drilling activity is completed and wells are in production. Interim reclamation is considered successful when reclamation performance objectives are met.

intermittent stream: 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.

invasive species: A plant or animal species that has moved into an area and reproduced so aggressively that it has replaced some of the original (native) species.

landslide: A perceptible downhill sliding or falling of a mass of soil and rock lubricated by moisture or snow.

lek: A traditional courtship display area attended by male greater sage-grouse in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitat. Leks are categorized as:

Active - Any lek that has been attended by male greater sage-grouse during the strutting season.

Inactive - Leks where it is known that there was no strutting activity through the course of a strutting season.

Unknown - Leks that have not been documented either active or inactive during the course of a strutting season.

Occupied - A lek that has been active during at least one strutting season within the last 10 years.

Unoccupied (formerly termed “historical lek”) - There are two types of unoccupied leks: (1) Destroyed - a formerly active lek site and surrounding sagebrush habitat that has been destroyed and is no longer capable of supporting greater sage-grouse breeding activity. (2) Abandoned - a lek in otherwise suitable habitat that has not been active during a consecutive 10-year period.

Undetermined - Any lek that has not been documented as being active in the last 10 years but that does not have sufficient documentation to be designated unoccupied.

life-of-project (LOP): Begins with the first disturbance authorized under the ROD for a project and ends when all wells are plugged and abandoned and all surface disturbance (each disturbed site) meets the reclamation performance objectives.

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

loam: A mixture of sand, silt, and clay containing between 7% and 27% clay, 28% to 50% silt, and less than 50% sand.

local roads: BLM roads that provide primary access to large blocks of land and connect with or are extensions of a public road system.

long-term impacts: For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, long-term impacts last for the life of the project or beyond.

migration corridor: A tract of land that forms a passageway and facilitates the seasonal migration of animals.

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.

modeling: A mathematical or physical representation of an observable situation. In air pollution control, models afford the ability to predict pollutant distribution or dispersion from identified sources for specified weather conditions.

Modified Mercalli (MM) Scale of Intensity: A scale designed to describe the effects of an earthquake, at a given place, on natural features, on industrial installations, and on human beings. (See also Richter scale)

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

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants 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): 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 (NRHP): The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register lists archaeological, historic, and architectural properties nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the National Register Staff.

native species: Plants or animals that originated in the area in which they are found (i.e., they naturally occur in that area); 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.

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.

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

No Surface Occupancy (NSO): A stipulation in a lease that disallows any surface disturbance in the lease area at any time. Natural gas or oil from an NSO area, for instance, would have to be recovered by directional drilling.

Notice of Intent (NOI): A notice published in the *Federal Register* to announce the intent to prepare an EIS.

noxious weeds: Officially designated (State of Wyoming-designated, Sublette County-declared) undesirable or invading weedy species generally introduced into an area by humans.

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 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 that may have been stipulated when the lease was issued.

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

paleontology: The science that deals with the history and evolution of life on earth.

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

passerine: Of or relating to birds of the order Passeriformes, which includes perching birds and songbirds such as the jays, blackbirds, finches, warblers, and sparrows.

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

permeability: The extent that a porous rock, sediment, or soil is able to transmit a liquid.

permittee (grazing): An individual who has livestock grazing privileges on an allotment or allotments within the resource area.

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

playa: The shallow central basin of a desert plain in which water gathers and is evaporated.

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 lead agency.

prevention of significant deterioration (PSD): A classification system 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 that economic growth can occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources.

produced water: Water brought to the surface through the borehole.

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

production: Phase of commercial operation of an oil field.

Proposed Action: The alternative identified in the EIS as the action favored by the project proponent.

public lands: Lands or interests in lands owned by the United States and in this case administered by the Secretary of Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership.

Quaternary: The geologic period beginning two to three million years ago and extending to the present; represented by local accumulations of glacial and post-glacial deposits.

rangeland: Land on which the natural vegetation is made up primarily of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs valuable for forage and suitable for grazing livestock.

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 EIS 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: An excavated pit that may be lined with plastic that holds drill cuttings and waste mud.

reserves/recoverable reserves: Areas of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can be extracted profitably using existing technology and under present economic conditions.

residuum: Materials resulting from the disintegration, decomposition, or weathering of bedrock.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): A BLM planning document, prepared in accordance with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that presents systematic guidelines for making resource management decisions for a resource area. RMPs are issues-oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.

resource roads: Spur roads that provide point access, as to a well site, and connect to local or collector roads.

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

Richter scale: A logarithmic scale used to measure earthquake magnitude (intensity). Each unit increase in the Richter scale represents a 10-fold increase in the amplitude recorded on the seismogram and a 30-fold increase in energy released by the earthquake. (See also Modified Mercalli Scale of Intensity)

rig: A collective term to describe the 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 directly influenced by water that usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streamsides and lake borders are typical riparian areas.

roosting: Refers to avian slumber; 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.

sagebrush obligates: Species that depend on sagebrush to survive (e.g., pygmy rabbit, sage sparrow, sage-grouse).

salinity: A measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a given amount of water or body of water.

scatter (archeological): Archaeological 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.

sensitive soils: Soils having physical and/or chemical characteristics that could inhibit or limit successful stabilization and revegetation in the reclamation of sites disturbed by construction and the operation of oil and gas facilities.

shale: A laminated sediment in which the constituent particles are predominantly of the clay grade.

short-term impacts: For the purpose of this analysis, short-term impacts are generally defined as those that would last for five 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 be short-term or long-term.

silt: Any earthy material composed of fine particles, smaller than sand but larger than clay, suspended in or deposited by water.

siltstone: A sedimentary rock whose grain size is intermediate in size, falling between the coarser sandstone and finer mudstone.

site-specific analysis: Environmental assessments designed to address issues related to small projects, such as individual wells, generally under the guidance of a more comprehensive NEPA document.

socioeconomics: The study of impacts on a region's current and projected population and relative demographic characteristics (housing, economy, government, etc.).

soil productivity: The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop, such as fiber and forage, under defined levels of management. It is generally dependent on available soil moisture, nutrients, and length of growing season.

species of concern: Species of concern include federally listed threatened or endangered species, species proposed for listing, BLM sensitive species, WGFD priority species, and species considered rare or important by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database.

stipulation: A legal 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. Stipulations are supported by the NEPA process; without NEPA support, a stipulation cannot be added to the lease.

structural basin: A large depression of structural origin.

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

surface disturbing activities: An authorized action that disturbs vegetation, surface/near surface soil resources, and/or surface geologic features, beyond natural site conditions and on a scale that affects other Public Land values.

surface water: Water that sits or flows on the surface of the earth, including oceans, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs constructed by humans.

Tertiary: The older of the two geologic periods comprising the Cenozoic Era; the system of strata deposited during that period.

threatened species: Any species (plant or animal) that 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.

topographic basin: A large depression of erosional origin.

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

topsoil: The uppermost layers of naturally occurring soils suitable for use as a plant growth medium.

total dissolved solids (TDS): Total amount of dissolved material, organic or inorganic, contained in a sample of water.

trona: An evaporite mineral that is used as a source of sodium carbonate.

tuff(aceous): A rock formed by compacted volcanic fragments, generally smaller than 4 mm in diameter.

turbidity: A measurement of the total suspended solids in water.

two-track: A road that has not been constructed or maintained but that has been created by repeated use.

understory: A layer of vegetation underlying a layer of taller vegetation, such as brush and grass under trees.

viewshed: The areas seen from any given point.

visibility: The visual quality of the view or scene in daylight, with respect to color, rendition, and contrast definition.

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: (1) to manage the quality of the visual environment, and (2) to reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all BLM resource programs. The system uses four classes for categorizing visual resources.

Class I - Natural ecological changes and 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 II - 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 III - Contrasts to the basic elements caused by a management activity are evident but should remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

Class IV - Any contrast may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale, but it should repeat the form, line, color, and texture of the characteristic landscape.

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 what beneficial uses it can support.

watershed: The total land area that drains to a given watercourse or body of water.

Waters of the U.S.: A jurisdictional term from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act referring to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds with defined bed and bank.

well or wellbore: The hole drilled from the surface to the gas-bearing formation, several of which may be developed from a single well pad.

well pad: Relatively flat work area (surface location) that is used for drilling a well or wells and for producing from the well once it is completed.

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

wind rose: Any one of a class of diagrams designed to illustrate the distribution of wind direction experienced at a given location over a given period of time. Wind roses may also give information concerning distribution of wind speed, stability, or other meteorological parameters.

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

workover: Well maintenance activities that require onsite mobilization of a drill rig to repair the well bore equipment (casing, tubing, rods, or pumps) or the wellhead. In some cases, a workover may involve development activities to improve production from the target formation.

Wyoming Ambient Air Quality Standards (WAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the State of Wyoming. 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).

yearlong range: Locations where specific species are able to reside in the same area throughout the year.