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## GLOSSARY

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**ACTIVE LEK.** Any lek that has been attended by male greater sage-grouse during the strutting season. Presence can be documented by observing birds using the site or by signs of strutting activity.

**ACTIVE RAPTOR NEST SITES.** Any identified raptor nest site that could provide a nesting opportunity for a raptor. Temporal and spatial stipulations will be applied.

**ACTIVITY PLANNING.** Site-specific planning that precedes development. This is the most detailed level of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning. An activity plan details management of one or more resources on a specific site. Examples are allotment management plans and recreation area management plans. Activity plans implement decisions made in the Resource Management Plan (RMP).

**ACTUAL USE.** The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the number of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM.

**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV).** A wheeled or tracked vehicle, other than a snowmobile or work vehicle, designed primarily for recreational use or for the transportation of property or equipment exclusively on undeveloped road rights-of-way, marshland, open country, or other unprepared surfaces.

**ALLOTMENT.** An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments consist of BLM-administered lands and usually include other federally managed, state-owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

**ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP).** A written plan of livestock grazing management designed to attain management goals and objectives in a grazing allotment. An AMP is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other affected interests. Livestock grazing is considered in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources such as

**AMENDMENT.** The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved RMPs or Management Framework Plans using the prescribed provisions for resource management planning appropriate to the proposed action or circumstances. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

**ANIMAL UNIT.** A standardized unit of measurement for range livestock or wildlife. Generally, one mature (1,000-pound) cow or its equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

**ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM).** A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal unit for 1 month; also, a unit of measurement that represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for 1 month.

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL (APD).** An official request submitted by a lessee or operator to the BLM for permission to drill a well. The approved APD is a contract between the operator and the Federal Government and cannot be changed or modified unless authorized by the BLM.

**APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVEL (AML).** The prescribed number of wild horses BLM has determined through monitoring will be maintained within a Horse Management Area (HMA). The AML is set to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance will be maintained while also ensuring viable populations of wild horses. Therefore, the number is not necessarily the resource-limited carrying capacity of an HMA. Maintenance of a thriving natural ecological balance requires consideration of wild horses in light of other consumptive and nonconsumptive uses within an HMA. Through establishing the AML, BLM strives to maintain the multiple-use relationship that existed at the time the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act was passed. Appendix 12 contains a detailed description of the development, application, and interpretation of AMLs for the Rawlins HMAs.

**APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (AMR).** The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety; the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions; natural and cultural resource management objectives; protection priorities; and values to be protected. This includes the use of wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. The evaluation must also include an analysis of the context of the specific fire within the overall local, geographic area, or national wildland fire situation.

**AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC).** Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) 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 and safety from natural hazards. The identification of a potential ACEC shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands.

**ASSESSMENT.** The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

**AVOIDANCE AREAS.** Areas to be avoided which may be available for location of ROWs and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements with special stipulations or mitigation measures. For such authorizations, the area's environmental sensitivity and other feasible alternatives will be strongly considered.

**BIG GAME.** Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

**BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (BA).** The gathering and evaluation of information on proposed endangered and threatened species and Critical habitat and proposed Critical habitat. A BA is required when a management action potentially conflicts with endangered or threatened species and is the method by which other federal agencies enter into formal consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and describe a proposed action and the consequences to the species the action would affect.

**BOARD FOOT.** A unit of solid wood 1 foot square and 1 inch thick.

**CANDIDATE SPECIES.** Any species included in the *Federal Register* notice of review that is being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS.

**CANOPY.** The upper layer consisting of the crowns of woodland, forest, shrub, or any terrestrial plant community that is formed by the taller plants.

**CASUAL USE.** Activities that involve practices that do not ordinarily lead to any appreciable disturbance or damage to lands, resources, and improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit.

**CHANNEL.** An open conduit either naturally or artificially created that periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

**CHECKERBOARD LAND PATTERN.** Alternating sections of federally owned lands and private or state lands on either side of the Union Pacific railroad in southwestern Wyoming. This pattern of land ownership looks like a checkerboard on maps, using different colors to show land status.

**CLASSIFICATION AND MULTIPLE USE (C&MU).** Refers to both the Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act of 1964 and the classifications that were placed on the lands pursuant to that act. The objective of the C&MU Act was to provide an opportunity for BLM to categorize lands for multiple use management and for disposal. The act provided 4 years for BLM to classify lands for multiple use management by prohibiting disposal or entry under various public land laws to be specified in the particular classification document.

The C&MU classifications referred to in the current document prohibited disposal under the Isolated Tracts Act (Revised Statutes 2455) and entry under the agricultural entry laws (Homestead Act, Desert Land Act, and others). Portions of the C&MUs also prohibited entry under the General Mining Law of 1872. Today, the multiple use provisions of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 fulfill the purpose and objectives of the C&MU classifications.

**CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR).** The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

**COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND.** Forestland that is now producing or is capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood fiber per acre per year from commercial coniferous tree species and that has met certain economic, environmental, or multiple-use criteria for inclusion in the commercial forestland base.

**COMMODITY.** An economic good such as a product of agriculture or mining.

**COMMUNITY.** An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

**COMPENSATION MITIGATION.** Mitigation measures located away from an adversely affected site (i.e., in contrast with onsite mitigation.) Compensation mitigation would be used as a tool to address loss of habitat effectiveness when reclamation, best management practices, and onsite mitigation measures are not adequate to mitigate the impacts of proposed actions.

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL (COA).** Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which a site-specific surface disturbing or human presence activity (Application for Permit to Drill, sundry notice, right-of-way, etc.) is approved.

**CONFORMANCE.** Condition in which a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.

**CONSISTENCY.** The circumstance in which the proposed land use plan does not conflict with officially approved plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other federal agencies, and state and local governments to the extent practical within federal law, regulation, and policy.

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CEQ).** An advisory council to the President of the United States 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.

**COVER.** Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators). (See also Vegetation Cover and Forest Crown Cover.)

**CRITICAL HABITAT.** An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species “on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection.” These irreplaceable and vital areas are designated as critical by the Secretary of the Interior for the survival and recovery of listed Threatened and Endangered Species.

**CRUCIAL HABITAT.** Any particular range or habitat component (often winter or winter/year-long range in Wyoming) that is the determining factor in a population’s ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s population objective) over the long term.

**CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE.** The portion of the winter range to which a wildlife species is confined during periods of heaviest snow cover.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE.** A fragile and nonrenewable remnant of human activity, occupation, or endeavor reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, or natural features.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.** A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps, of cultural resources. Processes involved are locating, identifying, and recording of sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research; collecting information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources; and conducting on-the-ground field surveys of varying levels of intensity. (See also Cultural Resource Inventory Classes.)

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES.** A Class I inventory of a defined area provides a narrative overview of existing information and a compilation of existing data on which to base the development of BLM’s site record system. A Class II inventory is a sample-oriented field inventory designed to locate and record, on the basis of surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of a defined area to make possible an objective estimate of the nature and distribution of cultural resources in the entire defined area. A Class III inventory is an intensive field inventory designed to locate and record all cultural resource sites within a specified area. Upon completion of such an inventory, no further cultural resource inventory work is normally needed in that area.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE (CULTURAL PROPERTY).** A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural properties are extremely variable in size, ranging from the location of a single cultural resource feature to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACT.** The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**DESIGNATED ROADS AND VEHICLE ROUTES.** Those roads and vehicle routes that are specifically identified by the BLM as the only allowable routes for motor vehicle travel in the specific area involved. Travel on designated roads and trails may be allowed seasonally or year-long. Additional roads or vehicle routes may be constructed and authorized for travel, as need dictates, in conformance with the land use plan or activity plan.

**DESIGNATED RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) CORRIDOR.** A parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by law, Secretarial Order, the land use planning process, or by some other management decision as a preferred location for existing and future ROW facilities. The corridor may be suitable to accommodate more than one type of ROW use or facility or one or more ROW uses or facilities that are similar, identical, or compatible. A designated corridor may already be occupied by existing utility facilities. It has been adequately analyzed in order to provide a high degree of assurance that in being identified as a “designated corridor,” it can accommodate at least one new additional utility facility.

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS (DFC).** An identifiable and quantifiable set of habitat conditions that function to maintain, restore, or enhance the viability of populations of desired fish and wildlife by fulfilling their life history requirements.

**DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY (DPC).** A plant community that produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site. The desired plant community must be consistent with the site’s capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.

**DESTROYED LEK.** A formerly active lek site and surrounding sagebrush habitat that has been destroyed and is no longer capable of supporting sage-grouse breeding activity. A lek site that has been strip-mined, paved, converted to cropland, or has undergone other long-term habitat type conversion is considered destroyed. Destroyed leks do not require monitoring unless the site is reclaimed as suitable sage-grouse habitat.

**DEVELOPED RECREATION SITES.** Recreation sites that are planned, designed, engineered, constructed, and maintained by BLM or other agencies by cooperative agreement.

**DISCHARGE (WATER).** The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given location or within a given period of time.

**DISCOVERY.** The knowledge of the presence of valuable minerals within or close enough to a location to justify a reasonable belief in their existence. Discovery is extremely important to public lands mining because the Mining Law of 1872 provides that mining claims can be located only after a discovery is made.

**DISPERSED RECREATION.** Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. An example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, and sightseeing.

**DISPOSAL.** Transfer of ownership of a tract of public land from the United States to another party through sale, exchange, or transfer under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

**DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES.** This term/phrase refers to those public land resource uses/activities that are likely to alter the behavior of, displace, or cause excessive stress to animal or human populations. This term/phrase does not apply to any physical disturbance of the features of the land surface. Examples of disruptive activities may include, among others: noise, human foot or vehicle traffic, or other human presence, regardless of the purpose of the activity. When administered as a land use restriction (e.g., No Disruptive Activities), or provision, this phrase prohibits or limits the physical presence of sound above ambient levels, lights, and the nearness of people and their activities. As a case in point, this restriction is often aimed at protecting wildlife during critical life stages, or during periods of severe winter weather conditions, although it could apply to any resource value on the public lands. Disruptive activities include both short- and long-term effects on species.

**DIURNAL.** Describes a cyclic event recurring daily or the nature or habit of an organism to be active during daylight hours.

**DIVERSITY.** The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitat, or habitat features per unit of area.

**DOCUMENTED LEK.** Any lek that has been identified as Active, Inactive, Unknown, or Occupied.

**EASEMENT.** A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

**ECOSYSTEM.** A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES.** Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as defined by the USFWS under the authority of the Endangered Species Act 1973, as amended.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA).** Concise, analytical documents authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and prepared with public participation that determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an EA determines an EIS is not needed, the EA becomes the document asserting agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS).** A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**EPHEMERAL CHANNELS.** A defined channel formed in response to ephemeral surface flow conditions. Defined channels typically can be identified by an abrupt bank along a water flow path with evidence of scouring, sorting, and/or vegetation removal during flood events. These channels generally form in concave erosional features such as gullies, ravines, and swells.

**EPHEMERAL SURFACE WATERS.** Streams, lakes, or other surface water bodies that have open water *only* during or immediately after periods of rainfall or snowmelt.

**EROSION.** The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.































