

RMS Glossary

Adaptive management: A management process that includes monitoring to determine whether management actions are meeting clearly defined outcomes; and, if not, making management changes that will best ensure that outcomes are met or re-evaluated.

Avoidance: Avoiding an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.

Baseline: The pre-existing condition of a resource, at all relevant scales, which can be quantified by an appropriate attribute(s). During environmental reviews, the baseline is considered the affected environment that would exist if a proposed action did not occur, and is used to compare predictions of the effects of the proposed action or a reasonable range of alternatives.

Best management practices (BMPs): State-of-the-art, efficient, effective, and practicable mitigation measures to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or eliminate impacts over time.

Compensation: Addressing impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Compensatory mitigation measure: An action that results in the restoration, establishment, enhancement, and/or preservation of resources to offset a residual impact.

Design features: Required measures or procedures incorporated into the proposed action or alternatives which avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts of a project proposal.

Durability: Maintaining the effectiveness of a mitigation measure for the duration of the impacts from a land use activity.

Duration of the impact: The length of time that an action causes an impact to resources. The duration of some impacts may be indefinite or perpetual.

Effective: Produces the desired outcome.

Effects: The direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from a land use activity; effects and impacts are synonymous.

Enhancement: The manipulation of a resource to improve it.

Goal (regional goal or land use plan goal): A broad statement of a desired outcome.

Impacts: The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects from a land use activity; effects and impacts as used in this document are synonymous.

Landscape: A geographic area encompassing ecosystems and human systems that is characterized by a set of common management concerns. The landscape is not defined by the size of the area, but rather by the interacting elements that are relevant and meaningful to management.

Minimization: Reducing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action.

Mitigation: The avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction, or compensation for impacts over time. Mitigation includes five steps: (1) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an

action; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action; (3) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and, (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Mitigation Desired Outcome: A clearly-defined and measurable result of a compensatory mitigation action.

Mitigation fund (i.e., an in-lieu fee fund): An arrangement, facilitated by a sponsor, where resources are restored, established, enhanced, and/or preserved, by pooling and spending funds from a single or multiple authorized land users, for the purpose of compensating for residual effects to resources from land use activities. In general, a mitigation fund accepts funds for compensatory mitigation from authorized land users, whose obligation to provide compensatory mitigation is then transferred to the mitigation fund sponsor.

Mitigation hierarchy: See *Mitigation*, the process and order of preference for the application of the five steps in mitigation, i.e., avoidance, minimization, remediation, reduction over time, and/or compensation, in order.

Mitigation Strategy: A document that identifies, evaluates, and communicates potential mitigation needs and mitigation actions in a geographic area, at relevant scales, in advance of anticipated land use activities.

NEPA process/analysis: An analysis prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), such as a planning- or project-level environmental assessment or environmental impact statement .

Objective (regional objective or land use plan objective): A description of a desired outcome for a resource in a land use plan. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement.

Offsite Mitigation: Mitigation that is implemented at a different location than the project area.

Onsite Mitigation: Mitigation implemented in the project area.

Preservation: The removal of a threat to, or preventing the decline of, resources. Preservation may include the application of new protective designations on previously unprotected land or the relinquishment or restraint of a lawful use that adversely impacts resources.

Residual impacts: Any adverse reasonably foreseeable impacts that remain after the application of the first four steps in the mitigation hierarchy; also referred to as unavoidable impacts. Compensatory mitigation actions (the fifth step in the mitigation hierarchy) focus on addressing residual impacts.

Resources (and their values, services, and/or functions): *Resources* are natural, social, or cultural objects or qualities; *resource values* are the importance, worth, or usefulness of resources; *resource services* are the benefits people derive from resources; and *resource functions* are the physical, chemical, and/or biological processes that involve resources.

Restoration: the manipulation of degraded resources in order to return the resources to an un-degraded condition.