

# GLOSSARY

---

**Abandoned nest.** A nest that was occupied by breeding birds earlier in the breeding season but was abandoned at some point during breeding (e.g., failed eggs, death of young).

**Access roads.** Gravel or dirt roads (rarely paved) that provide overland access to transmission line and pipeline rights-of-way (ROWs) and facilities for construction, inspection, maintenance, and decommissioning.

**Active Management Areas (AMAs).** Active Management Areas were established in Arizona to provide long-term management and conservation of limited groundwater supplies. In order to accomplish this, the AMAs administer state laws, explore ways of augmenting water supplies to meet future needs, and routinely work to develop public policy to promote efficient use and an equitable allocation of available water supplies.

**Acquired lands.** Acquired lands, as distinguished from public lands, are those lands in federal ownership which have been obtained by the Government by purchase, condemnation, or gift, or by exchange for such purchased, condemned or donated lands, or for timber on such lands.

**Acquisition.** Acquisition of lands can be pursued to facilitate various resource management objectives. Acquisitions, including easements, can be completed through exchange, Land and Water Conservation Fund purchases, donations, or receipts from the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act sales or exchanges.

**Active nest site.** A raptor nest site that is currently occupied by a pair of breeding raptors.

**Activity plan.** A type of implementation plan (see *Implementation plan*); an activity plan usually describes multiple projects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Examples of activity plans include

interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, recreation area management plans, and grazing plans.

**Adaptive management.** A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

**Adequate Water Supply Program.** The Arizona Adequate Water Supply Program requires anyone who offers subdivided land outside of an Active Management Area for sale or lease to obtain a determination from the Arizona Department of Water Resources regarding the availability of water supplies before the land may be marketed to the public as defined in Arizona Administrative Code R12-15-715 et seq.

**Administrative access.** Administrative access pertains to travel on routes that are limited to authorized users (typically motorized access). These are existing routes that lead to developments that have an administrative purpose, where the BLM or a permitted user must have access for regular maintenance or operation.

**Affected environment.** For an environmental impact statement, a description of the existing environment covering information necessary to assess or understand the impacts. It must contain enough detail to support the impact analyses and must highlight environmentally sensitive resources (e.g., floodplains, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, and archeological resources).

**Air basin.** A land area with generally similar meteorological and geographic conditions throughout. To the extent possible, air basin boundaries are defined along political boundary lines and include both the source and receptor areas.

**Air pollution.** Degradation of air quality resulting from unwanted chemicals or other materials occurring in the air.

**Air quality classes.** Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act, which limits the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant; Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be insignificant; and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be insignificant.

**Airshed.** A subset of air basin, the term denotes a geographical area that shares the same air because of topography, meteorology and climate.

**Alkali.** A mixture of soluble salts found in arid soils and some bodies of water, and as pure deposits in dry lake beds; detrimental to agriculture.

**Allotment.** An area of land in which one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consists of BLM lands but may include other federally managed, state-owned, and private lands. An allotment may include or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

**Allotment management plan.** A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific, multiple-use management goals in a grazing allotment. An allotment management plan 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 to renewable resources, such as watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An allotment management plan establishes seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system.

**Alluvial soil.** A soil developing from recently deposited alluvium and exhibiting essentially no horizon development or modification of the recently deposited materials.

**Alluvium.** Clay, silt, sand, gravel, or other rock materials transported by moving water. Deposited in comparatively recent geologic time as sorted or semi-sorted sediment in rivers, floodplains, lakes, and shores, and in fans at the base of mountain slopes.

**Alternative.** A mix of management prescriptions applied to specific land areas to achieve a set of goals and objectives. Each alternative represents a different way of achieving a set of similar management objectives. Sometimes the term “action alternative” is used when it is desirable to recognize that there is a “no action” alternative under which the proposed activity would not take place.

**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 noise.** The all-encompassing noise level associated with a given environment, being a composite of sounds from all sources.

**Amendment.** The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved Resource Management Plans or management framework plans. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

**Animal unit month (AUM).** The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

**Aquatic.** Living or growing in or on the water.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).** Special Area designation established through the BLM's land use planning process (43 CFR 1610.7-2) 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 level of allowable use within an ACEC is established through the collaborative planning process. Designation of an ACEC allows for resource use limitations in order to protect identified resources or values.

**Attainment area.** A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standard for that specific pollutant.

**Augmentation Plan.** A court-approved plan that allows a junior water user to divert water out of priority so long as adequate replacement is made to the affected stream system, preventing injury to the water rights of senior users.

**Avoidance area.** See “right-of-way avoidance area” definition.

**Backcountry byway.** Vehicle routes that traverse scenic corridors using secondary or backcountry road systems. National backcountry byways are designated by the type of road and vehicle needed to travel the byway.

**Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.** This Act was originally enacted in 1940 as the Bald Eagle Protection Act to protect bald eagles and later amended to include golden eagles. It prohibits the taking or possession of and commerce in bald and golden eagles, parts, feathers, nests, or eggs, with limited exceptions. The definition of take includes pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest, or disturb. Bald eagles may not be taken for any purpose unless a permit is issued prior to the taking. Permits must be obtained from the U.S. Department of the Interior to relocate nests that interfere with resource development or recovery.

**Best Management Practice (BMP).** A method, process, or activity, or usually a combination of these, that are determined by a State or a designated planning agency to be the most effective and practicable means (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) of managing or controlling particular conditions or circumstances. BMPs are a suite of voluntary, accepted measures that may or may not be applied to or enforced for any given project.

**Big game.** Indigenous, ungulate (hoofed) wildlife species that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bison, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

**Biodiversity (biological diversity).** 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 needed 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 Opinion.** A document prepared by US Fish and Wildlife Service stating their opinion as to whether or not a federal action will likely jeopardize the continued existence or adversely modify the habitat of a listed threatened or endangered species.

**Biological soil crust.** A complex association between soil particles and cyanobacteria, algae, microfungi, lichens, and bryophytes that live within or atop the uppermost millimeters of soil.

**BLM Sensitive Species.** Those species that are not federally listed as endangered, threatened, or proposed under the Endangered Species Act, but that are designated by the BLM State Director under 16 USC 1536(a)(2) for special management consideration. By national policy, federally listed candidate species are automatically included as sensitive species. Sensitive species are managed so they will not need to be listed as proposed, threatened, or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

**Candidate species.** Taxa for which the US Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on their status and threats to propose the species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. Separate lists for plants, vertebrate animals, and invertebrate animals are published periodically in the Federal Register (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Manual).

**Categorical Exclusion.** A category of actions (identified in agency guidance) that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment, and for which neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required (40 CFR 1508.4), but a limited form of NEPA analysis is performed.

**Center pivot irrigation.** A form of sprinkler irrigation consisting of several segments of pipe (usually galvanized steel or aluminum) that are joined together and supported by trusses, mounted on wheeled towers with sprinklers positioned along its length. The system moves in a circular pattern and is fed with water from the pivot point at the center of the arc. These systems are

found and used in all parts of the nation and allow irrigation of all types of terrain.

**Central Arizona Project Aqueduct.** A 336-mile (541-kilometer) long diversion canal operated by the Central Arizona Water Conservation District that diverts water from the Colorado River into central and southern Arizona. The Central Arizona Project is the largest and most expensive aqueduct system ever built in the United States.

**Citizen Wilderness Proposal.** Areas that have been inventoried and proposed for Wilderness designation by citizens.

**Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1963 and amendments.** Federal legislation governing air pollution control.

**Climate change.** Any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change may result from:

- natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun;
- natural processes within the climate system (e.g. changes in ocean circulation); and
- human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g. through burning fossil fuels) and the land surface (e.g. deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.).

**Climax vegetative community.** The final vegetation community and highest ecological development of a plant community that emerges after a series of successive vegetational stages. The climax community perpetuates itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces.

**Closed area.** An area where one or more uses are prohibited either temporarily or over the long term. Areas may be closed to uses such as, but not limited to, off-road vehicles, mineral leasing, mineral or vegetative material collection, or target shooting. In off-road vehicle use closed areas, motorized and mechanized off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of motorized and mechanized 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 (43 CFR 8340.0-5).

**Collaboration.** A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands. Collaboration may take place with any interested parties, whether or not they are a cooperating agency.

**Collaborative partnerships.** Refers to people working together, sharing knowledge and resources, to achieve desired outcomes for public lands and communities within statutory and regulatory frameworks.

**Compact Linear Fresnel Reflector (CLFR).** A type of Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) technology similar to a parabolic trough design, where the sun's heat energy is reflected onto a receiver positioned above the mirrors and containing water; the water is converted to steam and delivered to a Rankine cycle steam turbine-generator for production of electricity.

**Compensatory mitigation.** For purposes of the Clean Water Act Section 404 and Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 regulatory programs, compensatory mitigation is the restoration, creation, enhancement, or, in exceptional circumstances, preservation of wetlands and/or other aquatic resources for the purpose of compensating for unavoidable adverse impacts which remain after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization has been achieved.

**Concentrating PV (CPV).** See "*Photovoltaic (PV) Module*" definition.

**Concentrating solar collector.** A solar collector that uses reflective surfaces to concentrate sunlight onto a small area, where it is absorbed and converted to heat or, in the case of solar photovoltaic (PV) devices, into electricity. Concentrators can increase the power flux of sunlight hundreds of times. The principal types of concentrating collectors include: compound parabolic, parabolic trough, fixed reflector moving receiver, fixed receiver moving reflector, Fresnel lens, and central receiver. A PV concentrating module uses optical elements (Fresnel lens) to increase the amount of sunlight incident onto a PV cell. Concentrating PV modules/arrays track the sun and use concentrating devices to reflect direct sunlight onto the solar cell to produce electricity directly. Concentrating solar collectors in Concentrated Solar Power (CSP) facilities concentrate sunlight onto a receiver where it heats a heat transfer fluid that subsequently exchanges its absorbed heat to water to produce steam to power a steam turbine-generator to produce electricity.

**Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) Technologies.** Any of a family of solar energy technologies that reflect and concentrate the sun's energy to produce heat that is subsequently used to produce steam to power a steam turbine-generator, or drive a reciprocating engine, to produce electricity. There are three different types of CSP systems: parabolic trough systems, power tower systems, and solar dish engine systems. Parabolic trough and power tower systems convert sunlight to heat to produce steam, while the solar dish engine system converts sunlight to heat to drive a reciprocating engine.

**Concentrator.** A photovoltaic module, which includes optical components such as lenses (Fresnel lens) to direct and concentrate sunlight onto a solar cell. Most concentrator arrays must directly face or track the sun. They can increase

the power flux of sunlight hundreds of times, allowing greatly increased amounts of power to be generated from relatively small areas of solar cells.

**Conformance.** 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.

**Conservation agreement.** A formal signed agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service or National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries and other parties that implement specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats to, or otherwise improve the status of, a species. Conservation agreements can be developed at a state, regional, or national level and generally include multiple agencies at both the state and federal level, as well as tribes. Depending on the types of commitments the BLM makes in a conservation agreement and the level of signatory authority, plan revisions or amendments may be required before the conservation agreement is signed or subsequently in order to implement the conservation agreement.

**Conservation strategy.** A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated as BLM sensitive species or that have been determined by the US Fish and Wildlife Service or National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration-Fisheries to be federal candidates under the ESA.

**Cooperating Agency.** Assists the lead federal agency in developing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. These can be any agency with jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any tribe or Federal, State, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

**Corridor.** A strip of land that aids in the movement of species between disconnected core areas of their natural habitat.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).** An advisory council to the President of the US established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs to analyze and interpret environmental trends and information.

**Criteria pollutant.** The US EPA uses six “criteria pollutants” as indicators of air quality, and has established for each of them a maximum concentration above which adverse effects on human health may occur. These threshold concentrations are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards. The criteria

pollutants are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and lead.

**Critical habitat.** An area: A) designated by US Fish and Wildlife Service that is 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;” or B) on which are found those physical and biological features essential to the conservation of a species that may require special management consideration or protection.

**Crucial habitat types.** The environment essential to plant or animal biodiversity and conservation at the landscape level. Crucial habitats include, but are not limited to, biological core areas, severe winter range, winter concentration areas, reproduction areas, and movement corridors.

**Cultural resources.** Locations of human activity, occupation, or use. Cultural resources include archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and locations of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups.

**Cultural resources inventory.** An inventory to assess the potential presence of cultural resources. There are three classes of surveys:

- **Class I.** An existing data survey. This is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information, and (2) compile existing cultural resources site record data on which to base the development of the BLM’s site record system.
- **Class II.** A sampling field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area so that an estimate can be made of the cultural resources for the entire area.
- **Class III.** An intensive field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites in an area. Upon its completion, no further cultural resources inventory work is normally needed.

**Cumulative effects.** The direct and indirect effects of a proposed project alternative’s incremental impacts when they are added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, regardless of who carries out the action.

**Decision Area.** Lands and federal mineral estate within the planning area that are administered by the BLM.

**Designated roads and trails.** Specific roads and trails identified by the BLM (or other agency) where some type of motorized/nonmotorized use is appropriate and allowed, either seasonally or year-long (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

**Desired outcomes.** A type of land use plan decision expressed as a goal or objective.

**Disposal lands.** Transfer of public land out of federal ownership to another party through sale, exchange, Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926, Desert Land Entry or other land law statutes.

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

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

**Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs).** Electric and magnetic fields are generated when charged particles (e.g., electrons) are accelerated. Charged particles in motion produce magnetic fields. Electric and magnetic fields are typically generated by alternating current in electrical conductors. Also referred to as electromagnetic fields.

**Ecologic functionality.** These levels include successional processes that are in place, energy and nutrients that are being cycled effectively, and soil that is being appropriately stabilized. An area can be functioning at a basic level of ecologic functionality without meeting land health standards.

**Eligible river.** A river that qualifies for inclusion into the National WSR System through professional judgment that it is free flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable (M-835 I, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

**Endangered species.** Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Manual). Under the Endangered Species Act in the US, "endangered" is the more-protected of the two categories. Designation as endangered (or threatened) is determined by USFWS as directed by the Endangered Species Act.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973.** Designed to protect critically imperiled species from extinction as a consequence of economic growth and development untempered by adequate concern and conservation. The Act is administered by two federal agencies, USFWS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The purpose of the Act is to protect species and also the ecosystems upon which they depend (16 US Code 1531-1544).

**Environmental assessment (EA).** A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, alternatives considered, environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

**Environmental impact statement (EIS).** A detailed statement prepared by the responsible official in which a major federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action are provided, and effects are analyzed (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands).

**Evaluation (plan evaluation).** The process of reviewing the land use plan and the periodic plan monitoring reports to determine whether the land use plan decisions and National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented.

**Exchange.** A transaction whereby the federal government receives land or interests in land in exchange for other land or interests in land.

**Exclusion area.** See “*right-of-way exclusion area*” definition.

**Existing routes.** The roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (jeeps, all-terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders) and are, to the best of BLM’s knowledge, in existence at the time of RMP/EIS publication.

**Extensive recreation management area (ERMA).** Administrative units that require specific management consideration in order to address recreation use, demand, or Recreation and Visitor Services program investments. ERMAs are managed to support and sustain the principal recreation activities and the associated qualities and conditions of the ERMA. ERMA management is commensurate and considered in context with the management of other resources and resource uses.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).** Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM’s “Organic Act,” which provides most of the BLM’s legislated authority, direction policy, and basic management guidance (BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands).

**Federal mineral estate.** Subsurface mineral estate owned by the US and administered by the BLM.

**Fire Management Plan (FMP).** A plan that identifies and integrates all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved land/resource management plans. It defines a program to manage wildland fires (wildfire, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use). The plan is supplemented by operational plans including, but not limited to, preparedness plans, preplanned dispatch plans, and prevention plans. Fire Management Plans assure that wildland fire management goals and components are coordinated.

**Fire severity.** Degree to which a site has been altered or disrupted by fire; loosely, a product of fire intensity and residence time.

**Fire suppression.** All work and activities connected with control and fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

**Fluid minerals.** Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

**Forage.** All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing animals.

**Four-wheel drive vehicle.** A passenger vehicle or truck having power available to all wheels. Any motorized vehicle that has generally higher clearance than a passenger car and has traction on all four wheels.

**Fragile soils.** Soils having a shallow depth to bedrock, minimal surface layer of organic material, textures that are more easily detached and eroded, or are on slopes over 35 percent.

**Geographic Information System (GIS).** A system of computer hardware, software, data, people, and applications that capture, store, edit, analyze, and display a potentially wide array of geospatial information.

**Geothermal energy.** Natural heat from within the Earth captured for production of electric power, space heating, or industrial steam.

**Goal.** A broad statement of a desired outcome; usually not quantifiable and may not have established timeframes for achievement.

**Grandfathered right.** The right to use in a non-conforming manner due to existence prior to the establishment of conforming terms and conditions.

**Grazing system.** Scheduled grazing use and non-use of an allotment to reach identified goals or objectives by improving the quality and quantity of vegetation. Include, but are not limited to, developing pastures, utilization levels, grazing rotations, timing and duration of use periods, and necessary range improvements.

**Groundwater.** Water held underground in soil or permeable rock, often feeding springs and wells.

**Guidelines.** Actions or management practices that may be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as BMPs. Guidelines may be identified during the land use planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory. Guidelines for grazing administration must conform to 43 CFR 4180.2.

**Habitat.** An environment that meets a specific set of physical, biological, temporal, or spatial characteristics that satisfy the requirements of a plant or animal species or group of species for part or all of their life cycle.

**Habitat Management Plan (HMP).** A written and approved activity plan for a geographical area which identifies habitat management activities to be implemented in achieving specific objectives of planning decisions.

**Hazardous material.** A substance, pollutant, or contaminant that, due to its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment.

**Herd management area.** Public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM that has been designated for special management emphasizing the maintenance of an established wild horse or burro herd.

**Historic resources.** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places.

**Hybrid (wet-dry cooling) systems.** A variation on a dry cooling system. In this hybrid system, small amounts of water are sprayed as a fine mist into the flow of ambient air being directed over the surface of a dry condenser. The water evaporates, cooling the air as it does so. Alternatively, water is deluged over the surface of the dry condenser where it evaporates after interacting with the overflowing ambient air stream, cooling that air. Wet/dry hybrid systems consume only minor amounts of water (compared to wet closed-loop cooling) but offer significantly better performance than dry cooling systems, especially in hot climates with low relative humidity.

**Impact.** The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

**Impairment.** The degree to which a distance of clear visibility is degraded by man-made pollutants.

**Implementation decisions.** Decisions that take action to implement land use planning; generally appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR 4.410.

**Implementation plan.** An area or site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. Implementation plans include both activity plans and project plans.

**Indian Trust Assets.** Legal interests in property, physical assets, or intangible property rights held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes or individual Indians.

**Intermittent stream.** An intermittent stream is a stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface sources such as melting snow in mountainous areas. During the dry season and throughout minor drought periods, these streams will not exhibit flow. Geomorphological characteristics are not well defined and are often inconspicuous. In the absence of external limiting factors, such as pollution and thermal modifications, species are scarce and adapted to the wet and dry conditions of the fluctuating water level.

**Invertebrate.** An animal lacking a backbone or spinal column, such as insects, snails, and worms. The group includes 97 percent of all animal species.

**Irrigation.** The controlled application of water for agricultural purposes through manmade systems to supply water requirements that are not satisfied by rainfall.

**Irrigation Non-Expansion Area (INA).** A geographic area in Arizona that has been designated as having insufficient groundwater to provide a reasonably safe supply for the irrigation of the cultivated lands at the current rate of withdrawal.

**K factor.** A soil erodibility factor used in the universal soil loss equation that is a measure of the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff. Estimation of the factor takes several soil parameters into account, including soil texture, percent of sand greater than 0.10 millimeter, soil organic matter content, soil structure, soil permeability, clay mineralogy, and coarse fragments. K factor values range from .02 to .64, the greater values indicating the highest susceptibilities to erosion.

**Land classification.** When, under criteria of 43 CFR 2400, a tract of land has the potential for retention for multiple use management or for some form of disposal or for more than one form of disposal. The relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means and sites for realization of those values will be considered. Long-term public benefits will be weighed against more immediate or local benefits. The tract will then be classified in a manner that will best promote the public interest.

**Land health condition.** A classification for land health which includes these categories: “Not Meeting Standard(s),” “Meeting Standard(s) with Problems,” “Meeting Land Health Standard(s),” and “Exceeding Land Health Standard(s).”

- **Not Meeting Standard(s).** Lands which have one or more serious concerns with indicators to the degree that they are categorized as not meeting one or more of the Land Health Standards.
- **Meeting Standard(s) with Problems.** Lands which have one or more minor concerns with indicators to the degree that they are categorized as meeting the Land Health Standards, but flagged as having some issues which would generally benefit from management.
- **Meeting Standard(s) with Problems with a Downward Trend.** Lands which have one or more minor concerns with indicators to the degree that they are categorized as meeting the Land Health Standards, but flagged as having some issues, and which have shown declining conditions of those indicators over time.
- **Meeting Standard(s).** Lands which have none or very few or minor concerns with indicators, and all Land Health Standards are met.
- **Exceeding Standard(s).** Lands which show good or exceptional conditions for indicators and which meet all Land Health Standards

**Land tenure adjustments.** Land ownership or jurisdictional changes. To improve the manageability of the BLM lands and their usefulness to the public, the BLM has numerous authorities for repositioning lands into a more consolidated pattern, disposing of lands, and entering into cooperative management agreements. These land pattern improvements are completed primarily through the use of land exchanges but also through land sales, through jurisdictional transfers to other agencies, and through the use of cooperative management agreements and leases.

**Land use allocation.** The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

**Land use plan.** A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land use plan level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed. The term includes both RMPs and management framework plans (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

**Land use plan boundary.** The geographic extent of a resource management plan or management framework plans.

**Land use plan decision.** Establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the planning process in 43 CFR 1600. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals.

**Leasable minerals.** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. These include energy-related mineral resources such as oil, natural gas, coal, and geothermal, and some non-energy minerals, such as phosphate, sodium, potassium, and sulfur. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

**Lease.** Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 provides the BLM's authority to issue leases for the use, occupancy, and development of public lands. Leases are issued for purposes such as a commercial filming, advertising displays, commercial or noncommercial croplands, apiaries, livestock holding or feeding areas not related to grazing permits and leases, native or introduced species harvesting, temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes (does not include mining claims), residential occupancy, ski resorts, construction equipment storage sites, assembly yards, oil rig stacking sites, mining claim occupancy if the residential structures are not incidental to the mining operation, and water pipelines and well pumps related to irrigation and nonirrigation facilities. The regulations establishing procedures for processing these leases and permits are found in 43 CFR 2920.

**Lease notice.** Provides more-detailed information concerning limitations that already exist in law, lease terms, regulations, or operational orders. A lease notice also addresses special items that lessees should consider when planning operations but does not impose additional restrictions. Lease notices are not an RMP-level decision, and new lease notices may be added to fluid mineral leases at the time of sale. Lease notices apply only to leasable minerals (e.g., oil, gas, geothermal) and not to other types of leases, such as livestock grazing.

**Lease stipulation.** A modification of the terms and conditions on a standard lease form at the time of the lease sale.

**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 (43 CFR 8340.0-5).

**Lithic site.** An archaeological site containing debris left from the manufacture, use, or maintenance of flaked stone tools.

**Locatable minerals.** Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

**Long-term effect.** The effect could occur for an extended period after implementation of the alternative. The effect could last several years or more.

**Ma.** Millions of years ago.

**Management decision.** A decision made by the BLM to manage public lands. Management decisions include both land use plan decisions and implementation decisions.

**Mechanized uses.** Equipment that is mechanized, including but not limited to mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, and game carts.

**Mineral.** Any naturally formed inorganic material, solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the earth, any of various naturally occurring homogeneous substances (as stone, coal, salt, sulfur, sand, petroleum, water, or natural gas) obtained usually from the ground. Under federal laws, considered as locatable (subject to the general mining laws), leasable (subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920), and salable (subject to the Materials Act of 1947).

**Mineral entry.** The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any locatable minerals it may contain.

**Mineral estate.** The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

**Mineralize.** The process where a substance is converted from an organic substance to an inorganic substance.

**Mineral materials (salable minerals, salable mineral materials).** Common varieties of mineral materials such as soil, sand and gravel, stone, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws but that can be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

**Mineral patent.** A claim on which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the Mining Law of 1872.

**Mining claim.** A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining

Law and local laws and rules. A mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.

**Mining Law of 1872.** Provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands. Also referred to as the “General Mining Laws” or “Mining Laws.”

**Mitigation.** Alleviation or lessening of possible adverse effects on a resource by applying appropriate protective measures or adequate scientific study. Mitigation may be achieved by avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction, and compensation.

**Modification.** A change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria are applied.

**Monitoring (plan monitoring).** The process of tracking the implementation of land use plan decisions and collecting and assessing data necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of land use planning decisions.

**Motorcycle.** A motorized vehicle with two tires and with a seat designed to be straddled by the operator.

**Motorized vehicles or uses.** Vehicles that are motorized, including but not limited to jeeps, all-terrain vehicles (all-terrain vehicles, such as four-wheelers and three-wheelers), and tra motorcycles or dirt bikes.

**Multiple-use.** The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; 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 changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output (FLPMA) (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Manual).

**Municipal watershed.** A watershed area that provides water for use by a municipality as defined by the community and accepted by the State.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).** Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

**National Register of Historic Places.** A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance, established by the Historic Preservation Act of, 1966 and maintained by the National Park Service.

**National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).** A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past; (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads; and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

**Native vegetation.** Plant species which were found here prior to European settlement, and consequently are in balance with these ecosystems because they have well developed parasites, predators, and pollinators.

**Naturalness.** Consistent with what would occur without human intervention. For vegetation structure, naturalness implies a pattern similar to what fire and climate would produce across the landscape.

**Natural processes.** Fire, drought, insect and disease outbreaks, flooding, and other events which existed prior to European settlement, and shaped vegetation composition and structure.

**Non-energy leasable minerals.** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. Non-energy minerals include resources such as phosphate, sodium, potassium, and sulfur.

**Noxious weeds.** A plant species designated by federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the US.

**Objective.** A description of a desired outcome for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established timeframes for achievement.

**Off-highway vehicle (OHV) (off-road vehicle).** Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designated for travel on or immediately over land, water or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any non-amphibious 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 for national defense emergencies (43 CFR 8340.0-5).

**Off-highway vehicle area designations.** BLM-administered lands are designated as Open, Limited, or Closed for OHV use.

- **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 (43 CFR 8340.0-5).
- **Limited.** 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 (43 CFR 8340.0-5).
- **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 (43 CFR 8340.0-5).

**Old-growth forest stands.** Stands composed of trees that are generally in the late successional stages of development. The desired attributes of old-growth stands are older, large trees for the species and site; signs of decadence (broken or deformed tops or boles and some root decay); multiple layers of canopy; standing and down dead trees; a variation in tree age, size, and spacing; and gaps or patchiness in the canopy and understory (Mehl 1992).

**Open.** Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs. For example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 defines the specific meaning of “open” as it relates to OHV use.

**Ordinary high water mark.** That line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as clear,

natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas.

**Outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).** Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968: “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values...” Other similar values that may be considered include ecological, biological, or botanical.

**Overstory.** That portion of a plant community consisting of the taller plants on the site; the forest or woodland canopy.

**Ozone.** A faint blue gas produced in the atmosphere from chemical reactions of burning coal, gasoline, and other fuels and chemicals found in products such as solvents, paints, and hairsprays.

**Paleontological resources.** The physical remains or other physical evidence of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for correlating and dating rock strata and for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

**Parabolic trough.** A type of CSP Solar Energy technology that uses parabolic-shaped mirrors to concentrate sunlight on a receiver filled with a heat transfer fluid that subsequently transfers the heat it absorbs to water to produce steam to drive a steam turbine-generator to produce electricity. Parabolic Trough systems typically mount the mirrors on a support that can track the sun’s movement across the sky over the course of the day, ensuring maximum solar energy capture.

**Particulate matter (PM).** One of the six “criteria” pollutants for which the US EPA established National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Particulate matter is defined as two categories, fine particulates, with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometers (PM<sub>10</sub>) or less, and fine particulates with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>).

**Passenger vehicle.** Two-wheel-drive, low-clearance vehicles.

**Patent.** A grant made to an individual or group conveying fee simple title to selected public lands pursuant to various land disposal laws.

**Perennial stream.** A stream that flows continuously. Perennial streams are generally associated with a water table in the localities through which they flow.

**Permittee.** A person or company permitted to graze livestock on public land.

**Petroglyph.** A form of rock art created by incising, scratching or pecking designs into rock surfaces.

**Photovoltaic (PV) array.** An interconnected system of PV modules that function as a single electricity-producing unit. The modules are assembled as a discrete structure, with common support or mounting. In smaller capacity systems, an array can consist of a single module.

**Photovoltaic (PV) cell.** The smallest semiconductor element within a PV module that converts incident sunlight into electrical energy (direct current voltage and current). Also called a solar cell.

**Photovoltaic (PV) facility.** A solar energy facility that uses photovoltaic cells to produce electricity and that includes all components, such as the PV system, power conditioning equipment, monitoring and control capabilities, and other features required for safe connection of the facility to the bulk electricity transmission grid, as well as buildings, access roads, perimeter fence, and other equipment needed for operation and maintenance of the facility.

**Photovoltaic (PV) module.** An assembly of solar cells (flat-plate type) or receiver(s) and optics (concentrator type) and ancillary parts, such as interconnects and terminals, enclosed in a weatherproof container, intended to generate DC power under unconcentrated sunlight. (Note: A CPV module is a concentrator type PV module.) The structural (load carrying) member of a module can either be the top layer (superstrate) or the back layer (substrate).

**Photovoltaic (PV) panel.** A collection of modules, either flat-plate or concentrator type, mechanically fastened, electrically interconnected, and designed to provide a field-installable unit. (Note: Not all PV systems will use panelized units during installation. Sometimes the modules are individually attached to a support structure.)

**Physiography.** The study and classification of the surface features of the earth.

**Pictograph.** A form of rock art created by applying mineral based or organic paint to rock surfaces.

**Planning Area.** The geographical area for which resource management plans are developed and maintained.

**Planning criteria.** The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamlines and simplifies the resource management planning actions.

**Planning issues.** Concerns, conflicts, and problems with the existing management of public lands. Frequently, issues are based on how land uses

affect resources. Some issues are concerned with how land uses can affect other land uses, or how the protection of resources affects land uses.

**Potential Fossil Yield Classification (PFYC) System.** A system used by the BLM to classify geologic units based on the relative abundance of vertebrate fossils or scientifically significant invertebrate or plant fossils and their sensitivity to adverse impacts, with a higher class number indicating a higher potential.

**Potential vegetation group.** Potential vegetation types grouped on the basis of a similar general moisture or temperature environment.

**Power tower.** A type of CSP technology comprised of many large, sun-tracking mirrors (heliostats) that focus sunlight on a receiver at the top of a centrally located tower. The sunlight heats up a heat transfer fluid in the receiver, which then is used to generate steam (or directly heats water to produce steam) that powers a steam turbine-generator to produce electricity. Power tower systems can also be equipped with molten salt in which the heat generated at the receiver can be stored for delayed production of electricity.

**Prehistoric resources.** Any material remains, structures, and items used or modified by people before Euro-Americans established a presence in the region.

**Prescribed fire.** A wildland fire originating from a planned ignition to meet specific objectives identified in a written, approved, prescribed fire plan for which NEPA requirements (where applicable) have been met prior to ignition.

**Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD).** An air pollution permitting program intended to ensure that air quality does not diminish in attainment areas.

**Primitive and unconfined recreation.** Nonmotorized, nonmechanized (except as provided by law), and undeveloped types of recreational activities. Bicycles are considered mechanical transport, so their use is not considered primitive and unconfined recreation (H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

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

**Proper functioning condition.** A term describing stream health that is based on the presence of adequate vegetation, landform and debris to dissipate energy, reduce erosion and improve water quality.

**Proposed critical habitat.** Those areas officially proposed for designations as critical habitat by the Secretary of Interior or Commerce.

**Proposed species.** A species for which a proposed rule to add the species to the federal list of threatened and endangered species has been published in the Federal Register.

**Public land.** Land or interest in land owned by the US and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the US acquired ownership, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

**Raptor.** Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks, such as hawks, owls, falcons, and eagles.

**Reasonable foreseeable development scenario (RFDs).** The prediction of the type and amount of oil and gas activity that would occur in a given area. The prediction is based on geologic factors, past history of drilling, projected demand for oil and gas, and industry interest.

**Reclamation.** Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced and in conformity with a predetermined land management plan.

**Recreation and Public Purposes Act of 1926.** Provides for the lease and sale of public lands determined valuable for public purposes. The objective of the R&PP Act is to meet the needs of state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations by leasing or conveying public land required for recreation and public purpose uses. Examples of uses made of R&PP lands are parks and greenbelts, sanitary landfills, schools, religious facilities, and camps for youth groups. The act provides substantial cost-benefits for land acquisition and provides for recreation facilities or historical monuments at no cost.

**Recreation experiences.** Psychological outcomes realized either by recreation-tourism participants as a direct result of their on-site leisure engagements and recreation-tourism activity participation or by nonparticipating community residents as a result of their interaction with visitors and guests within their community or interaction with the BLM and other public and private recreation-tourism providers and their actions.

**Recreation management zones.** Subunits within a SRMA managed for distinctly different recreation products. Recreation products are composed of recreation opportunities, the natural resource and community settings within which they occur, and the administrative and service environment created by all affecting recreation-tourism providers, within which recreation participation occurs.

**Recreation settings.** The collective distinguishing attributes of landscapes that influence and sometimes actually determine what kinds of recreation opportunities are produced.

**Rehabilitate.** Returning disturbed lands as near to its predisturbed condition as is reasonably practical or as specified in approved permits.

**Renewable Energy.** Energy resources that constantly renew themselves or that are regarded as practically inexhaustible. These include solar, wind, geothermal, hydro, and biomass. Although particular geothermal formations can be depleted, the natural heat in the Earth is a virtually inexhaustible reserve of potential energy.

**Research Natural Area (RNA).** A land management status which reserves the area for uses that are compatible with the resource of interest and research for which the area was designated.

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC).** A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management.

**Resource management plan (RMP).** A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives, and actions to be achieved.

**Restore/restoration.** The process of returning disturbed areas to a natural array of native plant and animal associations.

**Revegetate/revegetation.** The process of putting vegetation back in an area where vegetation previously existed, which may or may not simulate natural conditions.

**Revision.** The process of completely rewriting the land use plan due to changes in the planning area affecting major portions of the plan or the entire plan.

**Right-of-way (ROW).** Public lands authorized to be used or occupied for specific purposes pursuant to a right-of-way grant, which are in the public interest and which require ROWs over, on, under, or through such lands.

**Right-of-way avoidance area.** An area identified through resource management planning to be avoided but may be available for ROW location with special stipulations.

**Right-of-way exclusion area.** An area identified through resource management planning that is not available for ROW location under any conditions.

**Riparian/aquatic system.** Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations. Identified by a stream channel and distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water.

**Riparian area.** A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

**Riparian zone.** An area one-quarter mile wide encompassing riparian and adjacent vegetation.

**Road.** A 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.

**Roadless.** The absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use.

**Rock art.** Petroglyphs (carvings) or pictographs (painting) used by native persons to depict their history and culture.

**Routes.** Multiple roads, trails and primitive roads; a group or set of roads, trails, and primitive roads that represents less than 100 percent of the BLM transportation system. Generically, components of the transportation system are described as “routes.”

**Sale (public land).** A method of land disposal pursuant to Section 203 of FLPMA, whereby the US receives a fair-market payment for the transfer of land from federal ownership. Public lands determined suitable for sale are offered on the initiative of the BLM. Lands suitable for sale must be identified in the RMP. Any lands to be disposed of by sale that are not identified in the current RMP, or that meet the disposal criteria identified in the RMP, require a plan amendment before a sale can occur.

**Salinity.** Refers to the solids such as sodium chloride (table salt) and alkali metals that are dissolved in water.

**Saturated soils.** Occur when the infiltration capacity of the soil is exceeded from above due to rainfall or snowmelt runoff. Soils can also become saturated from groundwater inputs.

**Scenic byways.** Highway routes that have roadsides or corridors of special aesthetic, cultural, or historical value. An essential part of the highway is its scenic corridor. The corridor may contain outstanding scenic vistas, unusual geologic features, or other natural elements.

**Scenic river.** A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

**Scoping process.** An early and open public participation process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

**Seeding.** Seeding is a vegetation treatment that includes the application of grass, forb, or shrub seed, either aerially or from the ground. In areas of gentle terrain, ground applications of seed are often accomplished with a rangeland drill. Seeding allows the establishment of native species or placeholder species and restoration of disturbed areas to a perennial-dominated cover type, thereby decreasing the risk of subsequent invasion by exotic plant species. Seeding would be used primarily as a follow-up treatment in areas where disturbance or the previously described treatments have removed exotic plant species and their residue.

**Short-term effect.** The effect occurs only during or immediately after implementation of the alternative.

**Sole-source aquifer.** Defined by the US EPA as an aquifer supplying at least 50 percent of the drinking water consumed in the area overlying the aquifer, where the surrounding area has no alternative drinking water source(s) that could physically, legally, and economically supply all those who depend upon the aquifer for drinking water.

**Solitude.** The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely or secluded place. Factors contributing to opportunities for solitude may include size, natural screening, topographic relief, vistas, physiographic variety, and the ability of the user to find a secluded spot.

**Source water protection area.** The area delineated by a state for a public water supply or including numerous suppliers, whether the source is ground water or surface water or both.

**Special recreation management area (SRMA).** An administrative public lands unit identified in land use plans where the existing or proposed recreation opportunities and recreation setting characteristics are recognized for their unique value, importance, and/or distinctiveness, especially as compared to other areas used for recreation.

**Special recreation permit (SRP).** Authorization that allows for recreational uses of public lands and related waters. Issued as a means to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, and provide for the health and safety of visitors. Commercial SRPs are also issued as a mechanism to provide a fair return for the commercial use of public lands.

**Special status species (BLM).** BLM special status species are: (1) species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act; and (2) species requiring special management consideration to promote their conservation and reduce the likelihood and need for future listing under the Endangered Species Act that are designated as BLM sensitive by the BLM State Director(s). All federally listed candidate species, proposed species, and delisted species in the five years following delisting are conserved as BLM sensitive species.

**Split estate.** Lands on which the mineral estate is owned by someone other than the surface estate owner. For example, the surface is in private ownership and the mineral resources are publicly held and managed by the federal government.

**Standard lease terms and conditions.** Areas may be open to leasing with no specific management decisions defined in a Resource Management Plan; however, these areas are subject to lease terms and conditions as defined on the lease form (Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas; and Form 3200-24, Offer to Lease and Lease for Geothermal Resources).

**State implementation plan.** A detailed description of the programs a state will use to carry out its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act. State implementation plans are collections of the regulations used by a state to reduce air pollution.

**Stationary source.** Refers to a stationary source of emissions. Prevention of Significant Deterioration permits are required for major new stationary sources of emissions that emit 100 tons or more per year of carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, or particulate matter.

**Stipulation (general).** A term or condition in an agreement or contract.

**Stipulation (oil and gas).** A provision that modifies standard oil and gas lease terms and conditions in order to protect other resource values or land uses and is attached to and made a part of the lease. Typical lease stipulations include No Surface Occupancy (NSO), Timing Limitations (TL), and Controlled Surface Use (CSU). Lease stipulations are developed through the land use planning (RMP) process.

**Streamside management zone.** Land adjacent to a waterbody where activities on land are likely to affect water quality.

**Suitable river.** A river segment found, through administrative study by an appropriate agency, to meet the criteria for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system, specified in Section 4(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

**Surface-disturbing activities.** Human-caused disturbance resulting in direct and pronounced alteration, damage, removal, displacement, or mortality of vegetation, soil, or substrates; usually entail motorized or mechanized vehicles or tools; typically can also be described as disruptive activities (see following definition). Examples of typical surface disturbing activities include:

- Earth-moving and drilling;
- Geophysical exploration;
- Off-route motorized and mechanized travel;
- Vegetation treatments including woodland thinning with chainsaws;
- Pyrotechnics and explosives; and
- Construction of powerlines, pipelines, oil and gas wells, recreation sites, livestock improvement facilities, wildlife waters, or new roads.

Examples of casual use and other activities that would not normally be considered surface disturbing activities include:

- Equestrian use;
- Proper livestock grazing;
- Cross-country hiking;
- Hand-spraying weeds;
- Minimal trimming of vegetation to maintain ROWs;
- Motorized and mechanized travel on designated routes; and
- Maintenance of permitted areas under valid existing rights.

**Sustained yield.** The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

**Terrestrial.** Living or growing in or on the land.

**Threatened species.** Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range (BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Management). Under the Endangered Species Act in the US, “threatened” is the lesser-protected of the two categories. Designation as threatened (or endangered) is determined by USFWS as directed by the Endangered Species Act.

**Total dissolved solids.** Salt, or an aggregate of carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, and nitrates of calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, potassium, and other cations that form salts.

**Total maximum daily load (TMDL).** An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, nonpoint, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

**Traditional cultural properties.** A property that derives significance from traditional values associated with it by a social or cultural group, such as an Indian tribe or local community. A traditional cultural property may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places if it meets the criteria and criteria exceptions at 36 CFR 60.4 (see National Register Bulletin 38).

**Traditional use.** Longstanding, socially conveyed, customary patterns of thought, cultural expression, and behavior, such as religious beliefs and practices, social customs, and land or resource uses. Traditions are shared generally within a social and/or cultural group and span generations. Usually traditional uses are reserved rights resulting from treaty and/or agreements with Native American groups.

**Trail.** A linear route managed for human-power (e.g., hiking or bicycling), stock (e.g., equestrian), or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

**Transmission.** The movement or transfer of electric energy over an interconnected group of lines and associated equipment between points of supply and points at which it is transformed for delivery to consumers, or is delivered to other electric systems. Transmission is considered to end when the energy is transformed for distribution to the consumer.

**Transportation linear features.** “Linear features” represents the broadest category of physical disturbance (planned and unplanned) on BLM land. Transportation related linear features include engineered roads and trails, as well as user-defined, non-engineered roads and trails created as a result of the public use of BLM land. Linear features may include roads and trails identified for closure or removal as well as those that make up the BLM’s defined transportation system.

**Transportation system.** The sum of the BLM’s recognized inventory of linear features (roads, primitive roads, and trails) formally recognized, designated, and approved as part of the BLM’s transportation system.

**Travel management areas.** Polygons or delineated areas where a rational approach has been taken to classify areas open, closed or limited, and have identified and/or designated a network of roads, trails, ways, and other routes

that provide for public access and travel across the planning area. All designated travel routes within travel management areas should have a clearly identified need and purpose as well as clearly defined activity types, modes of travel, and seasons or timeframes for allowable access or other limitations (BLM Handbook H-1601-I Land Use Planning Handbook).

**Trespass.** Any unauthorized use of public land.

**Tribal interests.** Native American or Native Alaskan economic rights such as Indian trust assets, resource uses and access guaranteed by treaty rights, and subsistence uses.

**Understory.** That portion of a plant community growing underneath the taller plants on the site.

**Upland game birds.** Non-waterfowl game birds usually hunted with pointing breed, flushing spaniels, and retrievers. Upland game birds include grouse, chukar, quail, snipe, doves, pigeons, ptarmigan, wild turkey.

**Utility corridor.** Tract of land varying in width forming passageway through which various commodities such as oil, gas, and electricity are transported.

**Valid existing rights.** Documented, legal rights or interests in the land that allow a person or entity to use said land for a specific purpose and that are still in effect. Such rights include but are not limited to fee title ownership, mineral rights, rights-of-way, easements, permits, and licenses. Such rights may have been reserved, acquired, leased, granted, permitted, or otherwise authorized over time.

**Vegetation structure.** The stage of plant community development, encompassing age of stand, height of vegetation, and spatial distribution of plants.

**Vegetation treatments.** Management practices which change the vegetation structure to a different stage of development. Vegetation treatment methods include managed fire, prescribed fire, chemical, mechanical, and seeding.

**Vegetation type.** A plant community with immediately distinguishable characteristics based upon and named after the apparent dominant plant species.

**Vertebrate.** An animal having a backbone or spinal column. Includes jawless fishes, bony fishes, sharks and rays, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.

**Viewshed.** The panorama from a given viewpoint that encompasses the visual landscape, including everything visible within a 360-degree radius.

**Visibility (air quality).** A measure of the ability to see and identify objects at different distances.

**Visitor day.** Twelve visitor hours that may be aggregated by one or more persons in single or multiple visits.

**Visitor use.** Visitor use of a resource for inspiration, stimulation, solitude, relaxation, education, pleasure, or satisfaction.

**Visual resource management (VRM).** The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual resource values and to establish objectives for managing those values, and the management actions taken to achieve the visual resource management objectives.

**Visual resource management classes.** Define the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. Categories assigned to public lands are based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Each class has an objective that prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook). The four classes are described below:

- **Class I** provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers, and other similar areas where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- **Class II** areas are those areas where changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.
- **Class III** includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color, or texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.
- **Class IV** applies to areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

**Visual resources.** The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that comprise the scenery of the area.

**Visual sensitivity.** Visual sensitivity levels are a measure of public concern for scenic quality and existing or proposed visual change.

**Waiver.** A permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

**Watershed.** Topographical region or area delineated by water draining to a particular watercourse or body of water.

**Watershed condition indicators.** An integrated suite of aquatic, riparian, and hydrologic condition measures that are intended to be used at the watershed scale.

**Way.** Roadlike feature used by vehicles having four or more wheels but not declared a road by the owner and which receives no maintenance to guarantee regular and continuous use.

**Wild and scenic study river.** Rivers identified in Section 5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers will be studied under the provisions of Section 4 of the act (BLM Manual 8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

**Wilderness.** A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value. The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891) (H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

**Wilderness characteristics.** Wilderness characteristics include size, the appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They may also include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. Indicators of an area's naturalness include the extent of landscape modifications, the presence of native vegetation communities, and the connectivity of habitats. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation may be experienced when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, in locations where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others, where the use of the area is through nonmotorized, nonmechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

**Wilderness Study Area (WSA).** A designation made through the land use planning process of a roadless area found to have wilderness characteristics, as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

**Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Ways.** Existing vehicle routes identified during the BLM's original wilderness inventory; do not include illegal routes created in the interim. The miles of motorized routes in WSAs are only conditionally open to vehicle use. If use and/or non-compliance are found through monitoring efforts to impair the area's suitability for wilderness designation, the BLM would take further action to limit use of the routes or would close them. The continued use of these routes, therefore, is based on user compliance and non-impairment of wilderness values.

**Wildland fire.** Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire.

**Wildland-urban interface (WUI).** The line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

**Wild river.** Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

**Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river.** The term used for what is traditionally shortened to wild and scenic rivers. Designated river segments are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational but cannot overlap (BLM Manual 8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

**Withdrawal.** An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws. Withdrawals are also used to transfer jurisdiction of management of public lands to other federal agencies.