

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A livestock grazing management plan dealing with a specific unit of rangeland and based on multiple use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of rangelands and to renewable resources (e.g., watershed, vegetation and wildlife). An AMP establishes the seasons of use, number of livestock to be permitted on rangelands, and the range improvements needed.

Appropriate Management Level (AML2): That “optimum number” of wild horses, which results in a thriving ecological balance and avoids a deterioration of the range.

Archaeological Feature: A non-portable object, not recoverable from its matrix (usually in an archeological site) without destroying its integrity. Examples are rock paintings, hearths, post holes, floors, and walls.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): A designated area on public lands where special management attention is required: (1) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to fish and wildlife; (2) to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, or other natural systems or processes; or (3) to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

AZSITE Database: A computer database containing archaeological site and project information managed by the Arizona SHPO and maintained by the Arizona State Museum. The AZSITE database is part of the BLM–SHPO Cultural Resource Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP).

B

Back Country Byway: A component of the national scenic byway system which focuses primarily on corridors along back-country roads which have high scenic, historic, archeological, or other public interest values. The road may vary from a single-track bike trail to a low-speed, paved road that traverses back-country areas. (BLM Handbook H-8357-1, B 2)

Bajada: A broad continuous slope extending along and from the base of a mountain range and formed by coalescing alluvial fans.

Basic Elements: The four design elements (form, line, color, and texture), which determine how the character of a landscape is perceived.

Biodiversity (plant and animal): Shorthand for biological diversity; the variety and variability of life, at the genetic, species, and ecosystem level.

Breeding Zones: An area within which a single population of plants can be planted without fear of misadaptation.

Buffer Zone: An area designed to separate conflicting forces or uses.

C

California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS): The CHRIS includes the statewide Historical Resources Inventory database maintained by California Office of Historic Preservation / CA SHPO and the records maintained and managed, under contract, by twelve independent regional Information Centers. The CHRIS is part of the BLM–SHPO CRDSP partnership.

Candidate Species: Species not protected under the ESA but being considered by the USFWS for inclusion on the list of Federally threatened and endangered species.

Casual Use (Mining): Mining that only negligibly disturbs federal lands and resources and does not include the use of mechanized earth moving equipment, explosives, or motorized equipment (greater than 25 horsepower). Casual use generally includes panning, non-motorized sluicing, and collecting mineral specimens using hand tools.

Characteristic: A distinguishing trait, feature, or quality.

Characteristic Landscape: The established landscape within an area being viewed. This does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character. It could refer to an agricultural setting, an urban landscape, a primarily natural environment, or a combination of these types.

Contrast: Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.

Contrast Rating: A method of analyzing the potential visual impacts of proposed management activities.

Critical Habitat (Designated): Specific parts of an area that are occupied by a federally listed or endangered plant or animal at the time it is listed and that contain physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species or that may require special management or protection. Critical habitat may also include specific areas outside an area occupied by a federally listed species, if the Secretary of the Interior determines that these areas are essential for conserving the species.

Cultural Resource: A location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory, historical documentation, or oral evidence. Cultural resources include archaeological and historical sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, works of art, architecture, and natural

features that were important in past human events. They may consist of physical remains or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. And they may include definite locations of traditional, cultural, or religious importance to specified social or cultural groups.

Cultural Resource Data Sharing Partnership (CRDSP): A partnership started in 1998 between BLM and the SHPOs in 13 western states (Alaska, Oregon, California, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota) and Washington D.C. to ensure cultural resource professionals have consistent, easy to use, reliable spatial information systems on their desktops with access to cultural spatial data servers (e.g., the AZSITE database in Arizona) that assist them in doing their jobs as managers, researchers, and cultural resource professionals.

Cultural Resource Inventory (Survey): A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps of cultural resources. Included in an inventory are the processes of locating, identifying, and recording sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research, information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources, and on-the-ground surveys of varying intensity.

Class I: A professionally prepared study that compiles, analyzes, and synthesizes all available data on an area's cultural resources. Information sources for this study include published and unpublished documents, BLM inventory records, institutional site files, and state and NRHP files. Class I inventories may have prehistoric, historic, and ethnological and sociological elements. These inventories are periodically updated to include new data from other studies and Class II and III inventories.

Class II: A professionally conducted, statistically based sample survey designed to describe the probable density, diversity, and distribution of cultural properties in a large area. This survey is achieved by projecting the results of an intensive survey carried out over limited parts of the target area. Within individual sample units, survey aims, methods, and intensities are the same as those applied in Class III inventories. To improve statistical reliability, Class II inventories may be conducted in several phases with different sample designs.

Class III: A professionally conducted intensive survey of an entire target area aimed at locating and recording all visible cultural properties. In a Class III survey, trained observers commonly conduct systematic inspections by walking a series of close-interval parallel transects until they have thoroughly examined an area.

Cultural Resource Values: The irreplaceable qualities that are embodied in cultural resources, such as scientific information about prehistory and history, cultural significance to Native Americans and other groups, and the potential to enhance public education and enjoyment of the Nation's rich cultural heritage.

Cultural Site: A physical location of past human activities or events, more commonly referred to as an archaeological site or a historic property. Such sites vary greatly in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features.

D

Desert Pavement: A ground surface consisting of coarse, densely packed cobbles and gravels that are covered with layers of ferro-manganese deposits and microscopic organisms. Through the years, the stones develop a glossy patina that appears black from a distance. Desert pavement is the result of thousands of years of erosional forces.

Desert Pavement Features: Prehistoric cultural resource features created into the desert pavement, such as intaglios, cleared areas, trails, and rock alignments.

E

Ecological Function (sustained): The role or specific contribution of constituent living and non-living elements of ecosystems to system behavior. Sustained ecological function implies the maintained capacity of the land and environmental capacity of the ecosystem.

Ecological Integrity: The quality of a natural unmanaged or managed ecosystem in which the natural ecological processes are sustained with genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity assured for the future.

Ecosystem: Organisms, together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system and inhabiting an identifiable space.

Endangered Species: An animal or plant species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (as defined in the ESA, as amended in 1982).

Enhancement: A management action designed to improve visual quality.

Entry: When the register of a local land office “enters” land applications in the record books and on the survey plat of the local office (taken from Opportunity and Challenge, The Story of BLM).

Excavation: The scientific examination of an archaeological site through layer-by-layer removal and study of the contents within prescribed surface units, e.g. square meters.

Exotic Species: A species of plants or animals that is not native to the area where it is found. Any species that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized.

Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMA): An area that emphasizes the traditional dispersed recreation use of public lands. ERMAs have an undeveloped character that allows visitors to escape crowds, rely on their own skills and equipment for recreation pursuits, and freedom from stricter regulations. All lands that are not within a designated SRMA revert to the ERMA category. BLM actions in ERMAs are limited to custodial actions and therefore do not require an implementation-level plan.

F

Form: The mass or shape of an object or objects which appear unified, such as a vegetative opening in a forest, a cliff formation, or a water tank.

G

Geomorphic Integrity: Maintaining the unimpaired condition of the physical properties of the rock, soil, and water in and around land forms.

Geothermal Resources: Products of geothermal steam or hot water and hot brines, including those resulting from water, gas, or other fluids artificially introduced into geothermal formations; heat or other associated energy found in geothermal formations; and associated byproducts (43 CFR 3200.1).

H

Habitat Fragmentation: Process by which habitats are increasingly subdivided into smaller units resulting in their increased insularity and losses of total habitat area.

Harmony: A combination of parts into a pleasing or orderly whole: congruity; a state of agreement of proportionate arrangement of form, line, color, and texture.

Herd Area (HA): The geographic area identified as having been used by wild horse or burro herds as their habitat in 1971.

Herd Management Area (HMA): Public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM that has been designated for special management emphasizing the maintenance of an established wild horse and/or wild burro herd.

Historical Site: A location that was used or occupied after the arrival of Europeans in North America (ca. A.D. 1492). Such sites may consist of physical remains at archaeological sites or areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains. They may have been used by people of either European or Native American descent.

Hohokam: A group of North American Indians who lived between perhaps 300 BC and AD 1400 in central and southern Arizona, largely along the Gila and Salt Rivers.

Hydrologic Connectivity: The condition by which disparate regions on the hillslope are linked via subsurface water flow.

I

Imperiled Status: Extremely rare (five or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres).

Indian Tribe: Any American Indian group in the United States that the Secretary of the Interior recognizes as possessing tribal status (listed periodically in the Federal Register).

Indigenous: Being of native origin (such as indigenous peoples or indigenous cultural features).

Intaglio: A design made in the desert pavement by moving away the large rocks and scraping back the small cobbles and gravels to expose the lighter soil underneath. Intaglio features were also created by tamping, which would result in a depressed image in the desert pavement. Also referred to as earth figures or geoglyphs.

Integrated Pest Management: A pest management strategy that focuses on long-term prevention or suppression of pest problems through a combination of techniques such as encouraging biological control, use of resistant varieties, and adoption of alternate cultural practices such as modification of irrigation, or pruning to make the habitat less conducive to pest development. Pesticides are used only when careful monitoring indicates they are needed according to pre-established guidelines, treatment thresholds, or to prevent pests from significantly interfering with the purposes for which plants are being grown.

Invasive Non-native Plant: A plant species that was introduced to the ecosystem under consideration after European contact as a direct or indirect result of human activity and that produces large numbers of offspring at considerable distances from parent plants.

J

K

L

Landscape Character: The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture. These factors give the area a distinctive quality which distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

Landscape Connectivity Corridors: The extent to which the landscape facilitates wildlife movement.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals whose extraction from federally managed land requires a lease and the payment of royalties. Leasable minerals include coal, oil and gas, oil shale and tar sands potash, phosphate, sodium, and geothermal steam.

Limits of Acceptable Change: A framework for establishing acceptable and appropriate resource and social conditions in recreation settings. A system of management planning.

Line: The path, real or imagined, that the eye follows when perceiving abrupt differences in form, color, or texture. Within landscapes, lines may be found as ridges, skylines, structures, changes in vegetative types, or individual trees and branches.

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.

Location: A tract of land whose bounds have been officially designated (as for settlement or for a mining claim).

M

Mineral Material Disposal: The sale of sand, gravel, decorative rock, or other materials defined in 43 CFR 3600.

Mining Claim: A mining claim is a selected parcel of Federal Land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which a right of possession has been asserted under the General Mining Law. This right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted by a mining claim protect against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. The two types of mining claims are lode and placer. In addition, mill sites and tunnel sites may be located to provide support facilities for lode and placer mining.

Mining Plan of Operations: A plan for mineral exploration and development that a mining operator must submit to BLM for approval for all mining, milling, and bulk sampling of more than 1,000 tons or more and for exploration disturbing more than 5 acres or on special status lands, including wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern, national monuments, national conservation areas, and lands containing proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat. A plan of operations must document in detail all actions that the operator plans to take from exploration through reclamation.

Mitigation: Mitigation includes: (a) Avoiding the impacts altogether by not taking an action or parts of an action, (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation, (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment, (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action, (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

Mitigation Measures: Methods or procedures designed to reduce or lessen the adverse impacts caused by management activities.

N

National Historic Trail: One of the three categories of national trails defined in the National Trails System Act of 1968 that can only be established by act of Congress and are administered by federal agencies, although part or all of their land base may be owned and managed by others. National historic trails are generally more than 100 miles long and follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance. Their purpose is identifying and protecting the historic route and its remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment.

National Monument: an area designated to protect objects of scientific and historic interest by public proclamation of the President under the Antiquities Act of 1906, or by Congress for historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, or other objects of historic or scientific interest on public lands. Designation also provides for the management of these features and values.

National Recreation Trail: One of the three categories of national trails defined in the National Trails System Act of 1968 that can only be established by act of Congress and are administered by federal agencies, although part or all of their land base may be owned and managed by others. National Recreation Trails are existing regional and local trails recognized by either the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of the Interior upon application.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The official list, established by the NHPA, of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The NRHP lists archeological, historic, and architectural properties (i.e. districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects) nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the NRHP Staff. The NPS maintains the NRHP.

Native Species: A species of plant or animal that naturally occurs in an area and that was not introduced by humans (indigenous).

Naturalness: Lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness when affected primarily by the forces of nature and where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. BLM has authority to inventory, assess, and/or monitor the attributes of the lands and resources on public lands, which, taken together, are an indication of an area's naturalness. These attributes may include the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences and other improvements; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats.

No Surface Occupancy: A fluid mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the lease surface to protect special values of uses. Lessees may

explore for or exploit the fluid minerals under leases restricted by this stipulation by using directional drilling from sites outside the no surface occupancy area.

Notice: The notification a mining operator must submit to BLM of the intention to begin an operation that will disturb 5 acres or less a year within a mining claim or project area. The intent of a Notice is to permit operations with limited geographic disturbance to begin after a quick review for potential resource conflicts and to eliminate the need for federal action. A Notice requires no special forms, but an operator must submit specific information. BLM must complete its review of the Notice within 15 calendar days of its receipt unless more information is needed to determine if the operation would cause unnecessary or undue degradation.

Noxious Weed: According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-629), a weed that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agricultural and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

O

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any vehicle capable of or designed for travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, deriving motive power from any source other than muscle. OHVs exclude: (1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; (2), any fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for official or emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by a permit, lease, license, agreement, or contract issued by an authorized officer or otherwise approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

P

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Paleontology: A science dealing with the life forms of past geological periods as known from fossil remains.

Paleozoic Era: An era of geologic time (600 million to 280 million years ago) between the Late Precambrian and the Mesozoic eras and comprising the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian periods.

Petroglyph: Pictures, symbols, or other art work pecked, carved, or incised on natural rock surfaces.

Phenology: The study of periodic biological phenomena, such as flowering or seeding, especially as related to climate.

Physiographic Province: An extensive portion of the landscape normally encompassing many hundreds of square miles, which portrays similar qualities of soil, rock, slope, and vegetation of the same geomorphic origin (Fenneman 1946; Sahrhaftig 1975).

Plant Community: Assemblage of plant populations in a defined area or physical habitat; an aggregation of plants similar in species composition and structure, occupying similar habitats over the landscape.

Pollination Ecology: Branch of ecology concerned with the distribution of pollen by wind or animals and its efficacy in fertilization and seed set.

Prehistoric: Refers to the period wherein American Indian cultural activities took place before written records and not yet influenced by contact with nonnative culture(s).

Prescribed Recreation Settings: An inventory and planning process that provides a framework for defining the different types of outdoor recreation opportunities the BLM will seek to provide on the public lands. Prescribed Recreation Settings are arranged along a spectrum of six classes: primitive, semi-primitive, rural natural, rural developed, suburban, and urban. The settings are measured by a wide variety of environmental, social, administrative, and economic factors; and specific geographic areas on the ground identify where the BLM will seek to provide these types of outdoor recreation opportunities.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation: Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined types of recreation where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Primitive Road: A linear route used by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles. Primitive roads do not normally meet any BLM road design standards.

Priority Plant: Plants that are rare, unusual, or key species that are not listed as BLM Sensitive or federally listed as threatened or endangered.

Q

R

Rare Plant: Plant that is not presently threatened with extinction but exists in such small numbers throughout its range that it may become endangered if its present environment worsens.

Rehabilitation: A management alternative and/or practice which restores landscapes to a desired scenic quality.

Relict Population: A population limited to a small part of the original species range.

Right-of-way (ROW): A permit or easement that authorizes the use of lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines or powerlines.

Riparian: Pertaining to or situated on or along the bank of streams, lakes, and reservoirs.

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.

Road: As used herein (a linear route), a transportation facility used primarily by vehicles having four or more wheels, documented as such by the owner, and maintained for regular and continuous use.

Route: Collectively refers to roads, primitive roads, trails, and any other transportation-related linear features. Any motorized, non-motorized, or mechanized transportation corridor. Corridor may either be terrestrial or a waterway. "Roads" and/or "trails" are considered routes.

RS 2477: Revised Statute 2477 was enacted as part of the Mining Law of 1866, during a time when the federal government's focus was on encouraging settlement and development of the West. Congress passed R.S. 2477 to ensure miners' routes to their claims and cattlemen's trails for their herds by granting rights-of-way over any federal land not otherwise set aside. Although Congress repealed the statute in 1976 with FLPMA, it did not terminate rights-of-way in existence at that time. As part of the new law in 1976, Congress recognized all valid existing claims to these rights-of-way as of that date.

S

Salable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed by sales or special permits to local governments. See also Mineral Materials.

Scale: The proportionate size relationship between an object and the surroundings in which the object is placed.

Scenery: The aggregate of features that give character to a landscape.

Scenic Quality: The relative worth of a landscape from a visual perception point of view.

Scenic Values: (refer to scenic quality and scenic quality ratings).

Seed Zones: An area within which seed can be collected from any natural stand and planted in any new site without fear of misadaptation.

Sensitive Species (plant and animal): All species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, live in unique habitats, or need special management. Sensitive species include threatened, endangered, and proposed species that are classified by the USFWS.

Sensitivity Levels: Measures (e.g., high, medium, and low) of public concern for the maintenance of scenic quality.

Simulation: A realistic visual portrayal which demonstrates the perceivable changes in landscape features caused by a proposed management activity. This is done through the use of photography, artwork, computer graphics, and other such techniques.

Solitude: Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for solitude when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent and where visitors can be isolated, alone, or secluded from others.

Special Cultural Resource Management Area (SCRMA): An area containing cultural resources that are of special importance for public use, scientific use, traditional use or other uses as defined in BLM Manual 8110.4.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): Designation intensifies management of areas where outdoor recreation is a high priority. It helps direct recreation program priorities toward areas with high resource values, elevated public concern, or significant amounts of recreational activity. Areas with a SRMA designation can be expected to see investments in recreation facilities and visitor services aimed at reducing resource damage and mitigating user conflicts. Implementation-level plans are completed for each SRMA to fully describe management actions and objectives.

Special Status Species: Plant and animal species listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive by Federal or State governments.

Split-estate: Land whose surface rights and mineral rights are owned by different entities.

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO): The official within and authorized by each state at the request of the Secretary of the Interior to act as liaison for the NHPA.

Subsurface: Of or pertaining to rock or mineral deposits which generally are found below the ground surface.

Suburban Recreation Setting: The suburban recreation setting provides limited or little opportunity to see, hear, or smell the natural resources because of the widespread and very prevalent level of development, human activity, or natural resource modification. Watching and meeting other visitors are expected and desired; opportunity to briefly relieve stress and to alter everyday routine is important; families are common; a high sense of safety, security, comfort, and convenience is central and dominant. The mix of recreation activities may be diverse, ranging from relaxation and contemplation to physical exertion, thrills, excitement, and challenge; learning about the natural and cultural history of the area is important to some; area is popular with local residents or long-term winter visitors.

Surface-Disturbing Activities: This term generally refers to any BLM-authorized action that disturbs vegetation and surface soil, increasing erosion potential above normal site conditions. This definition typically excludes allowable casual use of the public lands, as outlined in the CFRs. Examples of surface disturbing activities are mining; construction and/or maintenance of roads, pipelines, and powerlines; installation of facilities; and implementation of vegetation treatments.

Surface Occupancy: See No Surface Occupancy.

T

Take: Under the ESA, take means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

Texture: The visual manifestations of the interplay of light and shadow created by the variations in the surface of an object or landscape.

Traditional Use: This cultural resource use category is to be applied to any cultural resource that is perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as having attributes that contribute to maintaining the heritage or existence of that group. This use category signifies that the cultural resource is to be managed in a way that takes those attributes into account, as applicable.

Trail: A linear route managed for human powered, stock, or OHV forms of recreation or for historic or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four wheel drive or high clearance vehicles.

Transportation Linear Feature: 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, nonengineered 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 (comprehensive): The proactive interdisciplinary planning, on-the-ground management, and administration of travel networks (both motorized and non-motorized) to ensure public access, natural resources and regulatory needs are considered. It consists of inventory, planning, designation, implementation, education, enforcement, monitoring, easement acquisition, mapping and signing, and other measures necessary to provide access to public lands for a wide variety of uses (including uses for recreational, traditional, casual, agricultural, commercial, educational, and other purposes).

U

V

Vandalism (Cultural Resource): Malicious damage or the unauthorized collecting, excavating, or defacing of cultural resources. Section 6 of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act states that "no person may excavate, remove, damage, or otherwise alter or deface any archaeological resource located on public lands or Indian lands, unless such activity is pursuant to a permit issued under section 4 of this act."

Variables: Factors influencing visual perception including distance, angle of observation, time, size or scale, season of the year, light, and atmospheric conditions.

Variety: The state or quality of being varied and having the absence of monotony or sameness.

Vegetative Composition: The types of vegetation that are present in an area.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor. Protection, rehabilitation, or enhancement is desirable and possible.

Visual Contrast: See Contrast.

Visual Quality: See Scenic Quality.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The inventory and planning actions taken to identify visual values and to establish objectives for managing those values; and the management actions taken to achieve the visual management objectives.

Visual Resource Management Classes: Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. There are four classes. Each class has an objective which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features).

Visual Values: See Scenic Quality.

W

Wetland: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil. Wetlands include marshes, shallows, lakeshores, cienegas, and riparian areas.

Wilderness: A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this chapter an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Wilderness Characteristics: Features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and are practical to manage. Lands are considered to maintain wilderness characteristics when opportunities to experience naturalness, solitude, or primitive and unconfined types of recreation are reasonably present.

Wildlife: A broad term that includes birds, reptiles, amphibians, and non-domesticated mammals.

Withdrawals, first form: Lands withdrawn by Reclamation which are exempt from both general land laws and mining laws. First form withdrawals are lands which may be needed in the construction and maintenance of irrigation projects.

Withdrawals, second form: Lands withdrawn by Reclamation which are exempt from general land laws, but not exempt from mining laws. Second form withdrawals may allow for specific land laws, i.e., homestead entry. Second form withdrawals include lands which are believed to be susceptible to irrigation from a reclamation project.

X

Xeroriparian: An area in a drainage that supports plant species more characteristic of uplands than wetlands, but that is more densely vegetated than areas removed from the drainage. Any flows in these channels are characteristically ephemeral but water may also be subsurface and the drainage may not flow.

Y

Z

Page intentionally left blank.