

## GLOSSARY

**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.

**AMBIENT AIR.** Outdoor air in locations accessible to the general public.

**AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS.** A combination of air pollutant concentrations, exposure durations, and exposure frequencies that are established as thresholds above which adverse impacts on public health and welfare may be expected. Ambient air quality standards are set on a national level by the US Environmental Protection Agency. Ambient air quality standards are set on a state level by public health or environmental protection agencies as authorized by state law.

**ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM).** The amount forage necessary to sustain one cow or its equivalent for one month. A full AUM's fee is charged for each month of grazing by adult animals if the grazing animal (1) is weaned, (2) is six months or older when entering public land, or (3) will become 12 months old during the period of use. For fee purposes, an AUM is the amount of forage used in one month by five weaned or adult sheep or goats or one cow, bull, steer, heifer, horse, or mule. The term AUM is commonly used in three ways: (1) stocking rate, as in X acres per AUM, (b) forage allocation, as in X AUMs in allotment A, and (3) utilization, as in X AUMs consumed from Unit B.

**ANNUAL PLANT.** A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in one year or less.

**ACQUIRED LANDS.** Lands in federal ownership that were obtained by the government through purchase, condemnation, or gift or by exchange. Acquired lands constitute one category of public lands.

**AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC).** An area established through the planning process, as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 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; or to fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and afford safety from natural hazards.

**ATTAINMENT AREA.** An area that has air quality as good as or better than a national or state ambient air quality standard. A single geographic area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others.

**AVOIDANCE AREA.** An environmentally sensitive area where rights-of-way may be granted only when no feasible alternative route is available.

**BEDROCK MORTAR.** An outcrop of bedrock used by Native Americans for processing vegetal materials.

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP).** A suite of techniques that guide, or that may be applied to, management actions to aid in achieving desired outcomes. BMPs are often developed in conjunction with land use plans, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the land use plan specifies that they are mandatory. They may be updated or modified without a plan amendment if they are not mandatory (BLM Handbook H1601-1; Glossary).

**BIOLOGICAL CRUST.** A complex mosaic of living organisms—algae, cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), bacteria, lichens, mosses, liverworts, and fungi—that grow on or just below the soil surface.

**CAVE.** Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages that occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other man-made excavation) and that is large enough to serve as habitat for wildlife. Such term includes any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance.

**CONDITION CLASS.** A classification of a vegetation community's variance or departure from historic fire conditions. Fire Condition Classes can be Fire Condition Class 1, representing low departure from a historic fire regime; Fire Condition Class 2, representing moderate departure from a historic fire regime; or Fire Condition Class 3, representing high departure from a historic fire regime.

**CONFINE STRATEGY.** The strategy employed in response to wildland fire where a fire perimeter is managed by a combination of direct and indirect actions and use of natural topographic features, fuel, and weather factors.

**CONTAINMENT.** The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

**CONNECTIVITY.** The degree to which habitats for a species are continuous or interrupted across a spatial extent, where habitats defined as continuous are within a prescribed distance over which a species can successfully conduct key activities, and habitats defined as interrupted or outside the prescribed distance.

**CRITERIA POLLUTANT.** An air pollutant for which there is a national ambient air quality standard. Criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, sulfur dioxide, inhalable particulate matter, fine particulate matter, or airborne lead particles.

**CRITICAL HABITAT.** Habitat designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act and under the following criteria: 1) specific areas within the geographical

area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management or protection; or 2) specific areas outside the geographical area of a species at the time it is listed but that are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

**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 specific social or cultural groups.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY.** A procedure to assess the potential presence of cultural resources. There are three classes of surveys:

- **Class I.** An existing data survey is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information and (2) to 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. On 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.

**DIRECT PROTECTION AREA (DPA).** A concept developed by federal and state fire protection agencies to help resolve the management and fiscal complexities of wildland fires burning across intermingled and adjacent areas of state and federal responsibility. Within DPAs, federal and state agencies assume fire protection responsibility for the lands of another agency, along with their own. The agencies also, as nearly as possible, represent the other agencies' interests and objectives; therefore, each agency must recognize, know, and understand each other's mission objectives, policies, and authorities.

**DISPOSAL.** A transaction that leads to the transfer of title to public lands from the federal government.

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

**ECOLOGICAL HEALTH.** The degree to which the integrity of the soil and ecological processes of ecosystems are sustained.

**ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENT.** A section of a river that qualifies for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through determination that it is free flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES.** Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**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, the alternatives considered, the environmental impact of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS).** A formal public document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action and released for comment and review. An EIS must meet NEPA requirements, CEQ guidelines, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

**EPHEMERAL STREAM.** Stream reaches where water flows for only brief periods during storm runoff.

**EROSION.** Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal or natural or than geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of surface-disturbing activities of people, animals, or natural catastrophes.

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

**EXCLOSURE.** A fence or other device that completely surrounds a relatively small area, such as a wetland or research plot, to exclude large animals, such as deer, cattle and burros.

**EXCLUSION AREA.** An environmentally sensitive area where rights-of-way would be granted only in cases where there is a legal requirement to provide such access.

**EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (ERMA).** A public lands unit identified in land use plans containing all acreage not identified as a Special Recreation Management Area. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature.

**FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA).** Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. It establishes public land policy for managing lands administered by the BLM. FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably (1) management on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans prepared to guide management actions, (3) public lands managed for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources, (4) public lands retained in federal ownership, and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT.** A fire planning unit in which preparedness strategies are designed to meet watershed or resource management objectives, designated by logical fire control or containment criteria, such as watershed basins, subbasins, ridgetops, topographic features, roads, or vegetation changes.

**FIRE SUPPRESSION.** Management action to extinguish all or part of a fire or confine its spread.

**FLUID MINERALS.** Oil, gas, geothermal resources, carbon dioxide, and coalbed methane.

**FORAGE.** All browse and herbaceous growth available and acceptable to grazing animals or that may be harvested for feeding. Forage includes pasture, rangelands, and crop aftermath. Feed includes forage, hay, and grains.

**GRAZING.** Consumption of forage from rangelands or pastures by livestock, wild horses, burros, or wildlife.

**GRAZING ALLOTMENT.** An area of land where one or more lessees or permittees graze their livestock. The number of livestock and period of use are stipulated for each allotment.

**GRAZING PERMIT/LEASE.** Official written permission to graze a specific number, kind, and class of livestock for a specified period on a defined rangeland.

**GREENHOUSE GAS.** A gaseous compound that absorbs infrared radiation and radiates a portion of that back toward the earth's surface, thus trapping heat and warming the earth's atmosphere.

**GROUNDWATER.** Water beneath the land, in the zone of saturation.

**GUZZLER.** General term for a natural or artificially constructed structure or device to capture and hold naturally flowing water to make it accessible to small and large animals. Most guzzlers involve aboveground or below ground piping, storage tanks, and valves.

**HABITAT.** A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

**HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP).** a comprehensive planning document pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit for a project with no federal nexus. (See Multi-Species Conservation Plan.)

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN.** A written and approved activity plan for a geographical area that 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.

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

**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.

**INDICATOR.** Components of a system whose characteristics (presence or absence, quantity, distribution) are used as an index of an attribute (e.g., rangeland health attribute) that are too difficult, inconvenient, or expensive to measure.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM.** A formation of varied land use and resource specialists providing a coordinated integrated information base for overall land use planning and management.

**INVASIVE SPECIES.** An alien species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or to harm human health.

**KARST.** A geologic formation composed of soluble rocks, such as limestone or gypsum, that is often rich in caves.

**LAND TENURE.** Refers to ownership of a parcel of land. For example, BLM-managed public lands are owned by the United States government for the citizens of the United States.

**LEASABLE MINERALS.** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium and sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

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

**LOCATABLE MINERALS.** Minerals or materials subject to claim and development under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Generally include metallic minerals, such as gold and silver, and other materials not subject to lease or sale, such as some bentonites, limestone, talc, and some zeolites. Whether a particular mineral deposit is locatable depends on such factors as quality, quantity, mineability, demand, and marketability.

**LONG-TERM EFFECT.** This could occur for several years after implementation of an alternative.

**MAINTENANCE AREA.** An area that meets federal ambient air quality standards but that was previously designated as a nonattainment area. Federal agency actions occurring in a maintenance area are still subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

**MECHANICAL WEED TREATMENT.** The use of tractors, crawler-type tractors, mowing tools, or specially designed vehicles with attached implements for mechanical vegetation treatments. Treatment types can include burial, tillage, and mowing.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU).** A written “handshake” agreement between the BLM and another entity or entities that confirms the use of cooperative management policies or

procedures to provide mutual assistance or to exchange results for the promotion of common endeavors.

**MINERAL ENTRY.** Claiming public lands (administered by the BLM) under the Mining Law of 1872 for the purpose of exploiting minerals. May also refer to mineral exploration and development under the mineral leasing laws and the Material Sale Act of 1947.

**MINERAL MATERIALS.** Common varieties of such commodities as sand, building stone, gravel, clay, and moss rock obtainable under the Minerals Act of 1947, as amended.

**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.

**MINERAL WITHDRAWALS.** Closure of land to mining laws, including sales, leasing, and location, subject to valid existing rights.

**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.

**MONITORING.** The timed collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and to identify changing resource conditions or needs.

**MULTIPLE USE.** Management of the various surface and subsurface resources so that they are jointly used in the manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the public, without permanently impairing the productivity of the land or the quality of the environment.

**NATIONAL AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS).** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants specified by the federal government. The air quality standards are divided into primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare) from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969 (NEPA).** Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other things, NEPA requires federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision making.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA).** The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. The NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

**NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS.** Established to identify and protect historic routes, these follow as closely as possible the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP).** 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 RECREATION TRAILS.** Established to provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses in or reasonably accessible to urban areas.

**NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS.** Established by an act of Congress, these are intended to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historical, natural, and cultural qualities of the areas through which these trails pass. National Scenic Trails may represent desert, marsh, grassland, mountain, canyon, river, forest, and other areas, as well as land forms that exhibit significant characteristics of the physiographic regions of the nation.

**NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SYSTEM (NWSRS).** Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or similar values designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 2, 1968, for the preservation of their free-flowing condition.

**NATIVE SPECIES.** A plant or animal species that naturally occurs in an area and was not introduced by humans.

**NATURALIZED SPECIES.** Those exotic species that are already occurring within defined areas in a self-sustaining wild state.

**NONATTAINMENT AREA.** An area that does not meet a federal or state ambient air quality standard. Federal agency actions occurring in a federal nonattainment area are subject to Clean Air Act conformity review requirements.

**NONNATIVE SPECIES.** Those species having originated in a different region and have acclimated to a new environment. Also see, Naturalized species.

**NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO).** A mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the lease surface in order to protect special values or uses.

**NOXIOUS PLANT (WEED).** An unwanted plant specified by federal or state laws as being undesirable and requiring control. Noxious weed refers to any plant that, when established, is highly destructive, competitive, or difficult to control by cultural or chemical practices. Noxious weeds are usually nonnatives and are highly invasive.

**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) (AKA. OFF-ROAD VEHICLE).** Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle being used for an emergency; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by an officer or

otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle being used for national defense.

**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREA DESIGNATIONS.** Administrative designation of public lands 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.
- **Limited**—An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, 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.
- **Closed**—An area where off-road vehicle use is prohibited. Use of off-road vehicles in Closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons, but such use should be made only with the approval of the authorized officer.

**OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE (ORV).** Listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values. . . .” Other similar values that may be considered include botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Professional judgment is used to determine whether values exist to an outstandingly remarkable degree. In order for a stream segment to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, it must possess one or more ORV. Guidelines for determining ORVs are found in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management.

**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.

**PM<sub>10</sub> (INHALABLE PARTICULATE MATTER).** A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 50 microns penetrate the lower human respiratory tract (tracheo-bronchial airways and alveoli in the lungs). In a regulatory context, PM<sub>10</sub> is any suspended particulate matter collected from the air by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 9.5 to 10.5 microns and a maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit less than 50 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 10 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 10 microns.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub> (FINE PARTICULATE MATTER).** A fractional sampling of suspended particulate matter that approximates the extent to which suspended particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters smaller than 6 microns penetrate the alveoli in the lungs. In a regulatory context, PM<sub>2.5</sub> is any suspended particulate matter collected from the air by a certified sampling device having a 50 percent collection efficiency for particles with aerodynamic equivalent diameters of 2.0 to 2.5 microns and a maximum aerodynamic diameter collection limit of less than 6 microns. Collection efficiencies are greater than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters smaller than 2.5 microns and less than 50 percent for particles with aerodynamic diameters larger than 2.5 microns.

**PERENNIAL PLANT.** A plant that has a life cycle of three or more years.

**PERENNIAL STREAM.** A stream that flows throughout the year for many years.

**PLANNING AREA.** The geographical area for which land use plans and RMPs are developed and maintained. The BKFO planning area encompasses about 17 million acres throughout Kings, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Ventura, Madera, eastern Fresno, and western Kern Counties and includes all lands within the BKFO administrative boundary regardless of jurisdiction or ownership.

**PLANNING ISSUES.** Disputes or controversies about existing and potential land and resource allocations, levels of resource use, production, and related management practices. Issues include resource use, development, and protection opportunities for consideration in the preparation of the RMP.

**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.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE TREATMENTS.** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved, prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements (where applicable) must be met before the fire is started.

**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.

**PUBLIC LAND.** Any lands or interest in lands (outside of Alaska) owned by the US and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM. For the purpose of this document, this term refers to BLM-administered surface estate.

**RANGELAND.** A type of land on which the native vegetation, climax, or natural potential consists predominately of grasses, grasslike plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangeland includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a plant cover that is managed like native vegetation.

**RANGELAND HEALTH.** The degree to which the integrity of the soil, vegetation, water, and ecological processes of the rangeland (land) ecosystem are balanced and sustained. Integrity is defined as maintenance of the structure and functional attributes characteristic of a locale, including normal variability.

**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 OPPORTUNITIES.** Favorable circumstances enabling visitors to engage in a leisure activity to realize immediate psychological experiences and to attain more lasting, value-added beneficial outcomes.

**RECREATION SETTING CHARACTER CONDITIONS.** The distinguishing recreational qualities of any landscape, objectively defined along a continuum, ranging from primitive to urban landscapes, expressed in terms of the nature of the component of its physical, social, and administrative attributes. These recreational qualities can be both classified and mapped. This classification and mapping process should be based on variation that either exists (for example, setting descriptions) or is desired (for example, setting prescriptions) among components of the various physical, social, and administrative attributes of any landscape. The recreation opportunity spectrum is one of the tools for doing this.

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

**RECREATION MANAGEMENT ZONE (RMZ).** In recreation management, an area with four defining characteristics: (1) it serves a different recreation niche within the primary recreation market, (2) it produces a different set of recreation opportunities and facilitates attaining different experiences and benefit outcomes, (3) it has a distinctive recreation setting character, and (4) it requires a different set of recreation provider actions to meet primary recreation market demand.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP).** A land use plan that establishes multiple-use guidelines and management objectives for a given planning area.

**RESTORATION.** The return or recovery of a habitat from a degraded state to its original community structure, natural complement of species, and natural functions.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW).** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, pursuant to a right-of-way authorization.

**RIPARIAN.** Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Normally describes plants of all types that grow rooted in the water table or the subirrigation zone of streams, ponds, and springs.

**ROAD.** A linear route managed for use by low-clearance vehicles having two or more wheels and that has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. (A way maintained strictly by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.)

**ROADLESS.** Refers to the absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use.

**ROAD MAINTENANCE.** Includes blading, brush removal, scarification, gravelling, water barring, spur ditching, establishing low water crossings, seeding, and installing cattle guards and culverts.

**RUNOFF.** A general term used to describe the portion of precipitation on the land that ultimately reaches streams; may include channel and nonchannel flow.

**SALABLE MINERALS.** Minerals that may be sold under the Material Sale Act of 1947, as amended. Included are common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, and clay.

**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.** A vegetation treatment that includes the application of grass, forb, or shrub seed, either by air or from the ground. In areas of gentle terrain, ground applications of seed are often accomplished with a rangeland drill. Seeding allows native species or placeholder species to become established and for disturbed areas to be restored 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.

**SEEPS.** Groundwater discharge areas. In general, seeps have less water flow than a spring.

**SHORT-TERM EFFECT.** The effect occurs only during or within five years after implementation of the alternative.

**SOILS.** (1) The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as the natural medium for the growth of land plants; (2) the unconsolidated mineral matter of the surface of the earth that has been influenced by genetic and environmental factors, including parent material, climate, topography, all acting over time and producing soil that differs from the parent material in physical, chemical, biological, and morphological properties and characteristics.

**SOIL COMPACTION.** A decrease in the volume of soil as a result of compression stress.

**SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA).** A public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities (that is, activity, experience, and benefit opportunities). Both land use plan decisions and subsequent implementing actions for recreation in each SRMA are geared to a strategically identified primary market—destination, community, or undeveloped.

**SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT.** A permit that authorizes the recreational use of an area and is issued pursuant to the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Subpart 8372, and 36 CFR, Part 71. Under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act, implemented by these regulations, special recreation permits are required for all commercial use, for most competitive events, and for the individual noncommercial use of special areas where permits are required.

**SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES.** BLM sensitive species are designated by the State Director under 16 USC, 1536(a)(2). Sensitive species are managed so they will not need to be listed as proposed, threatened, or endangered. They are given the same level of protection as candidate species (BLM Manual 6840).

**SPECIES COMPOSITION.** The proportions of plant species in relation to the total on a given area. It may be expressed in terms of cover, density, or weight.

**SPLIT ESTATE.** Lands on which the mineral estate remains with the federal government (BLM), while the surface has been transferred out of the public domain.

**STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE (SOP).** A written procedure or set of written procedures providing direction for consistently and correctly performing routine operations. These written procedures set forth methods expected to be followed during the performance of the particular task.

**STANDARDS FOR RANGELAND HEALTH.** Expressions of levels of physical and biological condition or degree of function required for healthy lands and sustainable uses; define minimum resource conditions that must be achieved and maintained.

**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.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.** Post-operational land uses that intend to benefit local communities and economies, while ensuring the well being of the environment.

**TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION.** During the eligibility phase of a Wild and Scenic Rivers study, stream segments determined to be free flowing and to have at least one ORV are assigned one of three tentative classifications: Wild, Scenic, or Recreational. Classification is based on the type and degree of human developments associated with the river and adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the evaluation. The principal attributes and management objectives of each category are described in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management.

**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.

**TRADITIONAL CULTURAL PROPERTIES.** A cultural property that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with a living community's cultural practices or beliefs that (1) are rooted in that community's history and that (2) are important in maintaining the community's continuing cultural identity.

**TRAIL.** A linear route managed for human power (such as hiking or bicycling), stock (such as horses), or OHVs or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel-drive or high-clearance vehicles.

**TRESPASS.** Any intentional unauthorized use of public land.

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

**UNIQUE GEOLOGIC RESOURCES.** The BLM does not have a specific management definition for this term. It is used to highlight geologic resources, such as landmarks, areas of scientific interest, paleontological localities, and cave systems, for planning and management consideration.

**UPLAND.** Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

**USE OF WILDLAND FIRE.** Management of either wildfire or prescribed fire to meet resource objectives specified in RMPs. Wildland fire may be used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources, consistent with management objectives.

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

**VEGETATION TYPE.** A plant community with immediately distinguishable characteristics based on and named after the apparent dominant plant species.

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

**VISUAL RESOURCES.** The visible physical features on a landscape, (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that make up the scenery of the area.

**VISUAL RESOURCE INVENTORY (VRI).** A process to provide BLM managers with a means for determining visual values. The inventory consists of a scenic quality evaluation, a sensitivity level analysis, and a delineation of distance zones. Based on these three factors, BLM-administered lands are placed into one of four visual resource inventory classes, which represent the relative value of the visual resources.

**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.** VRM classes identify the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A classification is assigned to public lands based on the guidelines established for scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and visibility.

- **VRM Class I**—Preserves the existing characteristic landscape and allows for natural ecological changes only. Includes congressionally authorized areas (wilderness), WSAs and areas approved through the RMP where landscape modification activities should be restricted.
- **VRM Class II**—Retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities should be low and not evident.
- **VRM Class III**—Partially retains the existing characteristic landscape. The level of change in any of the basic landscape elements due to management activities may be moderate and evident.
- **VRM Class IV**—Provides for major modifications of the characteristic landscape. The level of change in the basic landscape elements due to management activities can be high. Such activities may dominate the landscape and be the major focus of viewer attention.

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

**WEEDY SPECIES.** Any plant growing in an area to the injury of the desired vegetation. See also, Nonnative species.

**WETLANDS.** Permanently wet or intermittently water-covered areas, such as swamps, marshes, bogs, potholes, swales, and glades.

**WILDERNESS.** An area formally designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTER.** Identified by Congress in the Wilderness Act of 1964, namely, size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values, such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features.

**WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA).** A roadless area that has been inventoried but not designated by Congress and found to have wilderness characteristics, as described in Section 603 of FLPMA and Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

**WILDFIRE.** An unplanned ignition caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused actions, and escaped prescribed fires.

**WILDLAND FIRE.** Any nonstructure fire that occurs in the wildland. A general term that includes both prescribed fire and wildfire.

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

**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.