

# GLOSSARY

**Actual Production:** Actual production that originates from a well within a Unit Participating Area (PA) or Communitization Agreement (CA) that is reported to the Unit PA or CA case number. From a federal or tribal standpoint, it usually denotes that actual production originated from a Federal or tribal well.

**Adaptive Management:** A decision process that promotes flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood.

**Affected Environment:** The natural, physical and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes from the alternatives.

**Air Quality:** Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act, PL 88-206: January 1978.

**Allocated Production:** Production that is allocated to a federal or tribal tract/lease within a Unit PA or CA from a non-federal or tribal well. This frequently occurs within CAs where gas is produced from a fee (private) or state well and production is allocated back to the federal or tribal tract(s)/lease(s) within the CA.

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

**Allotment Categorization:** Grazing allotments and rangeland areas used for livestock grazing are assigned to an allotment category during resource management planning. Allotment categorization is used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Categorization is also used to organize allotments into similar groups for purposes of developing multiple use prescriptions, analyzing site-specific and cumulative impacts, and determining tradeoffs.

**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.

**Animal Unit Months (AUMs):** The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

**Appropriate Management Response (AMR):** Any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using Fire Management Unit strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** An area that needs special management attention to preserve historic, cultural, or scenic values; to protect fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and provide safety from natural hazards.

**Authorized Use:** Use of BLM land for which permission has been received from the BLM through a lease, permit, or right-of-way (including, but not limited to, grazing, oil and gas, and administrative activities).

**Avoidance Area.** An area where environmental impacts would be difficult or impossible to mitigate. A geographic area where construction and operation of a facility are likely to damage its significant environmental values or where formally designated environmental values may pose siting or construction problems.

**Best Available Control Technology (BACT):** Those techniques and methods of controlling emission of pollutants from an existing or proposed source.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Methods, measures or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution including, but not limited to, structural and non-structural controls, operation and maintenance procedures, other requirements, scheduling and distribution of activities. Usually, BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, economic and technical feasibility.

**BLM Roads:** A road is a linear route segment that can be created by the passage of vehicles (two-track); constructed; improved; or maintained for motorized travel. The following specifications were used to determine which routes would be inventoried for the Monument transportation plan database:

Motorized travel is not considered cross-country (off-road) on BLM land when:

- The motorized vehicle uses constructed roads that are maintained by the BLM. Constructed roads are often characterized with cut and fill slopes.
- The motorized vehicle use is clearly evident two-track routes with regular travel and continuous passage of motorized vehicles over a period of years. A two-track is where perennial vegetation is devoid or scarce, or where wheel tracks are continuous depressions in the soil yet evident to the casual observer and are vegetated.

**BLM Roads – Collector Roads:** These Bureau roads normally provide primary access to large blocks of land, and connect with or are extensions of a public road system. Collector roads accommodate mixed traffic and serve many uses. They generally receive the highest volume of traffic of all the roads in the Bureau road system. User cost, safety, comfort, and travel time are primary road management considerations. Collector roads usually require application of the highest standards used by the Bureau. As a result, they have the potential for creating substantial environmental impacts and often require complex mitigation procedures.

**BLM Roads – Local Roads:** These Bureau roads normally serve a smaller area than collectors, and connect to collectors or the public road system. Local roads receive lower volumes, carry fewer traffic types, and generally serve fewer uses. User cost, comfort, and travel time are secondary to construction and maintenance cost considerations. Low volume local roads in mountainous terrain, where operating speed is reduced by effort of terrain (steep and uneven), may be single lane roads with turnouts. Environmental impacts are reduced as steeper grades, sharper curves, and lower design speeds than would be permissible on collector roads are allowable.

**BLM Roads – Resource Roads:** These Bureau roads normally are spur roads that provide point access and connect to local or collector roads. They carry very low volume and accommodate only one or two types of use. Use restrictions are applied to prevent conflicts between users needing the road and users attracted to the road. The location and design of these roads are governed by environmental compatibility and minimizing Bureau costs, with minimal consideration for user cost, comfort, or travel time.

**BLM Roads Maintenance Level 1:** This level is assigned to roads where minimum maintenance is required to protect adjacent lands and resource values. These roads are no longer needed and are closed to traffic. The objective is to remove these roads from the transportation system.

**BLM Roads Maintenance Level 2:** This level is assigned to roads where the management objectives require the road to be opened for limited traffic. Typically, these roads are passable by high clearance vehicles and include two-track roads.

**BLM Roads Maintenance Level 3:** This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open seasonally or year-round for commercial, recreation, or high volume administrative access. Typically, these roads are natural or aggregate surfaced, but may include low use bituminous surfaced roads. These roads have defined cross sections with drainage structures (e.g., rolling dips, culverts, or ditches). These roads may be negotiated by passenger cars traveling at prudent speeds. User comfort and convenience are not considered a high priority.

**BLM Roads Maintenance Level 4:** This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open all year (except may be closed or have limited access due to snow conditions) and to connect major administrative features (recreation sites, local road systems, administrative sites, etc.) to county, state, or federal roads. Typically, these roads are single or double lane, aggregate, or bituminous surface, with a higher volume of commercial and recreational traffic than administrative traffic.

**BLM Roads Maintenance Level 5:** This level is assigned to roads where management objectives require the road to be open all year and are the highest traffic volume roads of the transportation system.

**Casual Use:** Activities that involve practices which do not ordinarily cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public lands, resources, or improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Examples include (but are not limited to) the use of roads for hunting and sightseeing, and ingress/egress on existing roads and trails.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR):** The official, legal tabulation of regulations directing federal government activities.

**Communitization Agreement (CA):** An agreement to combine two or more mineral leases in order to have sufficient acreage to comply with the spacing required to drill a well. A CA is formed when a federal lease cannot be independently developed in conformity with an established spacing pattern. Well spacing is determined based on state regulation.

**Compaction:** The process of packing firmly and closely together; for example, mechanical compaction by vehicular, human or livestock activity. Soil compaction results from particles being pressed together so that the volume of the soil is reduced. It is influenced by the

physical properties of the soil, moisture content, and the type and amount of compactive effort.

**Concentrations of Livestock:** The result of high numbers of animals per unit area, such as high density grazing or placement of supplements or salt on a small area. Concentrations of livestock can compact soils and could displace nesting birds. Though only a guideline, an average of two pair of cattle per acre or higher may be considered concentrating of livestock. See Livestock - Stocking Density.

**Conditions of Approval (COA):** Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an application for a permit to drill or a sundry notice is approved.

**Controlled Surface Use (CSU):** Use and occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. CSU is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the no surface occupancy or timing stipulations.

**Crucial Habitat:** Habitat which is basic to maintaining viable populations of fish or wildlife during certain seasons of the year or specific reproduction periods. It can describe any particular range or habitat component, but describes that component which is the determining or limiting factor in a wildlife population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level and in good health over the long term.

**Cultural Resource or Cultural Property:** A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. See Traditional Lifeway Value, Traditional Cultural Property and Definite Location. Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit. They may be, but are not necessarily eligible for the National Register. See Historic Property or Historic Resource.

**Cumulative Effect:** The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other actions. Cumulative impacts can also result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Definite Location:** Having discernible, mappable, more or less exact limits or boundaries, on a scale that can be established by a survey crew using conventional sensing and recording equipment, by an informant's direct on-

the-ground indication, or by precise placement in a documentary source (see Cultural Resource or Cultural Property). For example, an archaeological site or historic district can be said to have definite location, even when boundaries are initially recorded somewhat arbitrarily and are subject to verification.

**Direct Effects:** Effects on the environment which occur at the same time and place as the initial cause or action.

**Disruptive Activities:** Those activities that disrupt or alter wildlife actions at key times, during important activities, or in important areas (feeding, breeding, nesting, herd movement, winter habitat). Disruptive activities are those which can result in reductions of energy reserves, health, reproductive success, or population. Some examples of disruptive activities include geophysical (seismic), well plugging or work-over operations that last 24 to 48 hours or longer, and road reclamation. Emergency activities, rangeland monitoring, recreational activities, livestock grazing and management, and other field activities are not considered disruptive activities.

**Ecological Site:** A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics, differing from other kinds of land in its ability to produce vegetation and response to management.

**Endangered Species:** Any plant or animal species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

**Environmental Justice:** Executive Order 12898, Environmental Justice, requires federal agencies to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.

**Ephemeral Streams:** Streams that flow only as a direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events. They have no base flow.

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

**Erosion Susceptibility:** The susceptibility of a soil to erosion when no protective cover is present. The rate of soil displacement depends on the physical properties of the soil, slope gradient and rainfall/snowmelt event.

**Exception:** Case-by-case exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation continues to apply to all

other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria apply.

**Exclusion Area.** An area unavailable for corridor designation or facility siting. A geographical area designated for its environmental values and having defined boundaries wherein facility construction or operation is prohibited.

**Extended Term or Held By Production Lease:** A period of time in the life of a lease beyond the initial primary term. A lease can be extended or held by production (HBP) so long as oil or gas is produced in paying quantities. Leases are also allowed to be HBP if they contain a well that is capable of production in paying quantities and may remain shut-in due to the lack of infrastructure.

**Federal Minerals:** Mineral interests owned by the United States Government regardless of surface ownership. All federal oil and gas mineral interests are administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

**Fee Minerals:** The title or minerals ownership of land; short for “owned-in-fee” or private ownership.

**Floodplains:** (1) A strip of relatively flat land bordering a stream, built of sediment carried by the stream and dropped in the slack water beyond the influence of the swiftest current. A water floodplain is overflowed during times of high water; a fossil floodplain is beyond the reach of the highest flood. (2) That land outside a stream channel described by the perimeter of the maximum probable flood. (3) The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining an ocean, lake, or other body of standing water which has been or might be covered by floodwater.

**Fossil:** a. Originally, a rock, mineral, or other substance dug out of the earth. Now, any remains, impression, or trace of an animal or plant of past geologic ages that have been preserved in the earth’s crust. b. The remains or traces of animals or plants which have been preserved by natural causes in the earth’s crust, and excluding organisms which have been buried since the beginning of historic time.

**Fracture Stimulation (Fracking):** An attempt to increase production from a well by subjecting the reservoir to enough hydraulic pressure for it to crack. A granular material is injected into the cracks to hold them open when the pressure is released, so that oil or gas can flow through the cracks to a well.

**Geocaching:** A type of scavenger hunt for waterproof containers bearing treasure using the containers’ exact geographic coordinates and Global Positioning System devices.

**Grazing District:** The specific area within which public lands are administered under Section 3 of the Taylor Grazing Act. Public lands outside grazing district boundaries are administered under Section 15 of the Act.

**Grazing Lease:** A document authorizing use of the public lands outside an established grazing district. Grazing leases specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Leases specify the total number of AUMs apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both.

**Grazing Permit:** A document authorizing use of the public lands within an established grazing district. Grazing permits specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Permits specify the total number of AUMs apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both. Permit/permittee as used in this document, unless otherwise stated, refers to both grazing permits and leases/permittee/lessee.

**Habitat:** The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species.

**High Stock Density:** See Livestock – Stocking Density.

**HiLine:** The Milk River Basin/U.S. Highway 2 corridor across northern Montana.

**Historic Property or Historic Resource:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. The term includes, for purposes of these regulations, artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term “eligible for inclusion in the National Register” includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria. (36 CFR 800.2(e); compare National Historic Preservation Act, Section 301, Appendix 5.) (See also Cultural Resource or Cultural Property. “Cultural property” is an analogous BLM term not limited by National Register status.)

**Incidental Use:** Personal use of other vegetative resources on the site where they are obtained, or, if they are transported to a secondary location, personal use of the resources within a reasonable period of time by the person obtaining them.

**Indirect Effects:** Secondary effects which occur in locations other than the initial action or significantly later in time.

**Infiltration:** The downward flow of water through pores or small openings into soil or porous rock.

**Irretrievable Impact:** The commitment of a resource would be considered irretrievable when the project would directly eliminate the resource, its productivity, and/or its utility for the life of the project.

**Irreversible Impact:** The commitment of a resource would be irreversible if the project started a process (chemical, biological and/or physical) that could not be stopped. As a result, the resource or its productivity, and/or its utility would be consumed, committed, or lost forever.

**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 the lessee should consider when planning operations, but does not impose new or additional restrictions. Lease notices attached to leases should not be confused with notices to lessees (NTLs).

**Leasehold:** The entire area of a lease (could be both within and outside the Monument).

**Leave No Trace:** A nationwide (and international) program designed to assist visitors with their decisions when they travel and camp on America's public lands. The program strives to educate visitors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. The Leave No Trace principles of outdoor ethics form the framework of Leave No Trace's message: 1) plan ahead and prepare; 2) travel and camp on durable surfaces; 3) dispose of waste properly; 4) leave what you find; 5) minimize campfire impacts; 6) respect wildlife; 7) be considerate of others.

**Lek:** An area used by sage- and sharp-tailed grouse for mating displays (strutting ground).

**Livestock – Stocking Density:** The relationship between the number of animals and the specific unit of land being grazed at any point in time. May be expressed in animal units per unit of land area (animal units at a specific time/area of land).

**Livestock – Stocking Rate:** The relationship between the number of animals and the grazing management unit utilized over a specified time period. May be expressed as animal units over unit of land area (animal units of a described time period/area of land).

**Migratory Birds:** Any bird listed in 50 CFR 10.13 and protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711).

**Mitigation:** Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

**Modification:** Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A modification may, therefore, include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria applied.

**Multiple Use:** The harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment. (43 USC 1702). Multiple use involves managing an area for various benefits, recognizing that the establishment of land use priorities and exclusive uses in certain areas is necessary to ensure that multiple uses can occur harmoniously across a landscape.

**Neotropical Birds:** Birds that breed in North America and winter in tropical and subtropical America.

**No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** Use or occupancy of the land surface for fluid mineral exploration or development is prohibited to protect identified resource values. The NSO stipulation includes stipulations which may have been worded as “no surface use/occupancy,” “no surface disturbance,” “conditional NSO,” and “surface disturbance or surface occupancy restriction (by location).”

**No Wake Speed:** A speed where white water occurs in the path of the vessel or in waves created by the vessel.

**Notice to Lessees (NTL):** The NTL is a written notice issued by the authorized officer to implement regulations and operating orders, and serves as instructions on specific item(s) of importance within a state, district, or area.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** Federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands within their boundaries. The key law that implements the payments is Public Law 94-565, dated October 20, 1986. The law was rewritten and amended by Public Law 97-258 on September 13, 1982 and codified at Chapter 69, Title 31 of the United States Code.

**Permeability:** The ease with which gases, liquids or plant roots pass through a layer of soil. Permeability is measured as the number of inches per hour that water moves downward through a saturated soil.

**Perennial Streams:** Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

**Personal Watercraft:** A motorized recreational watercraft or vessel designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, straddling or kneeling **on the vessel**,

rather than in the conventional manner of operation by sitting, standing or kneeling **inside** the watercraft or vessel. Models normally have an outboard or inboard engine driving a jet pump as the primary source of power. Examples include, but are not limited to, jet skis, wheeled amphibious watercraft, etc.

**Planning Criteria:** The factors used to guide development of a resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issue previously identified, and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, analysis of the management situation, design and formulation of alternatives, estimation of the effects of alternatives, evaluation of alternatives, and selection of the preferred alternative.

**Plant Association:** A kind of climax plant community consisting of stands with essentially the same dominant species in corresponding layers.

**Plant Community:** An assemblage of plants occurring together at any point in time, thus denoting no particular successional status. A unit of vegetation.

**Prescribed Fire:** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives.

**Primary Term Lease:** A legal instrument by which a leasehold is created in minerals. A contract that, for a stipulated sum, conveys to an operator the right to drill for oil and gas. The oil and gas lease is not to be confused with the usual lease of land or a building. Competitive leases are set up on a primary term of five years. Non-competitive leases are set up on primary terms of 10 years.

**Prime Farmland:** Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops. It has the combination of soil properties, growing season and moisture supply needed to produce sustained high yields of crops if it is treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

**Primitive Airstrips:** Unpaved, grassy landing strips with no mechanized maintenance, improvements, facilities or infrastructure (tie downs, wind socks, airstrip delineators, etc.).

**Production in Paying Quantities (Lease Basis):** The volume of oil or gas that is needed to exceed direct daily operating costs and the costs for lease rentals or minimum royalty of a well. This means the well must be capable of generating enough revenue to exceed the ongoing operating costs of the well, no matter how small.

**Production in Paying Quantities (Unit Basis):** The volume of oil or gas that is needed from a well to return reasonable profit over the costs of drilling, equipping, completing and operating the well.

**Proper Functioning Condition (PFC):** Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when they dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment and aid floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and ground water recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl, breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity.

**Public Land or BLM Land:** Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except (1) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; and (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**Quality of Life:** Culture-specific norms of desired individual and social experience. It has both subjective and objective aspects and is often measured using both existing data and peoples' statements about their beliefs and values. A related term is lifestyle, which is an individual's or group's pattern of work, home life and leisure.

**Rangeland Health:** The degree to which the integrity of the soil and the ecological processes of rangeland ecosystems are sustained.

**Reclamation:** Rehabilitation of a disturbed area to make it acceptable for designated use. This normally involves regrading, replacement of topsoil, revegetation and other work necessary to restore it for use.

**Record of Decision:** A concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale used to reach that decision.

**Recreation Management Area - Extensive:** An area where recreation management is only one of several management objectives and where limited commitment of BLM staffing and funding for recreation is required.

**Recreation Management Area - Special:** An area where a commitment of BLM staffing and funding has been made, within the parameters of multiple use, to provide opportunities for specific recreation activities and experiences on a sustained yield basis.

**Resource Reserve Allotment:** A unit of public land that will not have term grazing permits issued. Such an allotment would only be grazed on a temporary, non-renewable basis to provide temporary grazing to rest other areas following wildfire, habitat treatments, or to allow for more rapid attainment of rangeland health. The allotment must be of sufficient size to be managed as a discrete unit. Resource reserve allotments should be distributed throughout the planning area.

**Riparian Areas:** Riparian areas may be associated with lakes, reservoirs, potholes, springs, bogs, wet meadows, and intermittent or perennial streams. The riparian zone occurs between the upland (terrestrial) zone and the aquatic (deep water) zone. Riparian areas are characterized by water tables at or near the soil surface, and by vegetation requiring high water tables.

**Significant:** An effect that is analyzed in the context of the proposed action to determine the degree or magnitude of importance of the effect, either beneficial or adverse. The degree of significance can be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

**Soil:** The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of vegetation.

**Soil Series:** The lowest category of soil classification, consisting of soils that are essentially alike in all major profile characteristics except in the texture of the "A" horizon (surface layer).

**Soil Survey:** The systematic examination, description, classification and mapping of soils in a survey area. Soil surveys are classified according to the level of detail of field examination based on use and management. Order I is the most detailed, then Order II, on to Order V, the least detailed. As used in this EIS, most of the area was mapped at an Order III survey.

**Split Estate:** A term used to describe land status when the mineral estate ownership varies from the surface ownership (i.e., federal minerals/private surface). This occurs on approximately 1,640 acres within the Monument.

**Spud Date:** The date an operator begins drilling the well (i.e., begins drilling through the surface of the earth).

**Standards for Rangeland Health:** The physical or biological conditions or functions required for healthy, sustainable rangelands.

**State Minerals:** Mineral interests owned by the state in which they reside.

**Steep Slopes:** Slopes with a gradient between 20 and 60 percent.

**Stipulation:** A provision that modifies standard lease rights and is attached to and made a part of the lease.

**Succession (Plant Succession):** The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential stability of a natural plant community.

**Surface-Disturbing Activities:** Those activities that alter the structure and composition of vegetation and topsoil/subsoil. This includes any action created through mechanized or mechanical means that would cause soil mixing or result in alteration or removal of soil or vegetation and expose the soil to erosive processes. Some examples of surface-disturbing activities include construction of roads, well pads, trenching for pipelines, construction or reconstruction of reservoirs and pits, and facility construction. Vegetation renovation treatments that involve soil penetration and/or substantial mechanical damage to plants (plowing, chiseling, chopping, etc.) are also surface-disturbing activities. Emergency activities, rangeland monitoring, recreational activities, livestock grazing and management, and other field activities are not considered surface-disturbing activities.

**Timing Limitation (Seasonal Restriction):** Prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the findings of analysis demonstrate the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent, project-specific mitigation measures would be insufficient.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** The total amount of a pollutant that a water body may receive from all sources without exceeding water quality standards. A TMDL can also be defined as a reduction in pollutant loading that results in meeting water quality standards. The TMDL process was established under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. A TMDL includes both a waste load allocation, which focuses on point sources, and a load allocation, which addresses nonpoint sources.

**Traditional Cultural Property:** A property that derives significance from traditional values associated with it by a social and/or cultural group such as an Indian tribe or local community. See Cultural Resource or Cultural Property and Definite Location. A traditional cultural property may qualify for the National Register if it meets the criteria and criteria exceptions at 36 CFR 60.4. See National Register Bulletin 38.

**Traditional Lifeway Value:** A social and/or cultural group's traditional systems of religious belief, cultural practice, or social interaction, not closely identified with

definite locations. Another group's shared values are abstract, nonmaterial, ascribed ideas that one cannot know about without being told. Traditional values are taken into account through public participation during planning and environmental analysis or through tribal consultation, as applicable. Traditional values may imbue a place with historic significance (see Traditional Cultural Property).

**Unit Agreement (Exploratory):** An agreement or plan for the development and operation of a well site, which provides for the recovery of oil and/or gas from the lands made subject thereto as a single consolidated entity, without regard to separate ownerships, and for the allocation of costs and benefits on a basis as defined in the agreement or plan.

**Unit Participating Area (PA):** That part of a unit area which is considered reasonably proven to be productive in paying quantities or which is necessary for unit operations and to which production is allocated in the manner prescribed in the unit agreement.

**Upland:** The portion of the landscape above the valley floor or stream.

**Very Steep Slopes:** Slopes with a gradient greater than 45 percent.

**Vibroseis:** Vibroseis could be defined as one of many techniques used to acquire geophysical information about the subsurface geology. Vibroseis is essentially another method of producing the energy (dynamite is also used as an energy source) needed to create a wave into the earth and it is reflected back off of various rock formations and recorded at the surface by a sensor called a geophone. Vibroseis is done by carrying the vibrator to the field on a large vehicle and a vibrator pad is lowered to the earth's surface where weight is placed on the pad and through hydraulics the pad is vibrated for up to 20 seconds per location. An analogy of a vibrator would be tossing a pebble into a pond and the release of energy into the pond would cause waves to form.

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

**Water Quality:** The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Watershed:** All lands which are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.

**Wetlands:** Wetland ecosystems share a number of characteristics including relatively long periods of inundation and/or saturation, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils. Despite these common features, wetlands exist under a wide range of climatic, geologic, and physiographic situations and exhibit a wide variety of physical, chemical, and biological characteristics.

**Wildcraft:** The following definition is taken from Section 76-10-102, Montana Code Annotated: "(9) (a) 'Wildcraft' means to collect, harvest, or separate by cutting, prying, picking, peeling, breaking, pulling, digging, splitting, or otherwise removing uncultivated plants or plant parts from their physical connection or point of contact with the ground or vegetation upon which they are growing or from the place or position where they lay for commercial purposes. (b) The term does not include the collection of: (i) plant material used for a campfire; or (ii) amounts intended for personal consumption."

**Wilderness:** A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is 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.

**Wilderness Study Area (WSA):** An area determined to have wilderness characteristics. Study areas will be subject to interdisciplinary analysis and public comment to determine wilderness suitability. Suitable areas will be recommended to the President and Congress for wilderness designation. These areas are an interim designation, valid until either designated as wilderness or released to multiple use management.

**Wildland Fire Use:** The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). (From the NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology)

**Winter Range:** A range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory deer and elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.