

# Chapter 7

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# Chapter 7

## References, Index, Acronyms, Units of Measure, Glossary, and Explanation of Impacts

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### 7.3 Acronyms

AADT	Average Annual Daily Traffic
AAQS	Ambient Air Quality Standards
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ac-ft	acre-feet
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AFY	acre-feet per year
AML	Appropriate Management Level
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQRV	Air Quality Related Value
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ASTM	American Standards for Testing and Materials
AUM	Animal Unit Month
AZ/NM/SNV	Arizona/New Mexico/Southern Nevada Power Area
BCT	Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
bgs	Below ground surface
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practice
BTU	British thermal unit
CA/MX	California Mexico Power Area
CAA	Clean Air Act
CDP	Census designated place
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
CO	Carbon Monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
COM	Construction, Operation, and Maintenance
Corps	United States Army Corps of Engineers
CR	County Road
CWA	Clean Water Act
dB	Decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel
DNL	day-night sound level

DNWR	Desert National Wildlife Refuge
DOI	Department of the Interior
EEC	Ely Energy Center
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
ET	Evapotranspiration
FAC	Facultative
FACU	Facultative Upland
FACW	Facultative Wetland
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rate Maps
FLAG	Federal Land Managers Air Quality Related Values Workgroup
FLM	Federal Land Manager
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
g	force of gravity
GBNP	Great Basin National Park
GLO	General Land Office
gpm	gallon per minute
GPS	Global Positioning System
HMA	Herd Management Area
hr	Hour
IMPROVE	Integrated Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments
IRP	Integrated Resource Plan
KCC	Kennecott Copper Company
km	Kilometer
KOP	Key Observation Point
kV	Kilovolt
kW	Kilowatt
kWh	Kilowatt hour
lb	Pound
LDS	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
$L_{eq}$	equivalent sound level
$L_{max}$	maximum sound level
$L_{min}$	minimum sound level
LOS	Level of Service
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
MW	Megawatt
n/a	not applicable
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NAICS	North American Industrial Classification System
NAIP	National Agriculture Imagery Program
NBAPC	Nevada Bureau of Air Pollution Control
NCA	Noise Control Act
NDEP	Nevada Division of Environmental Protection
NDOT	Nevada Department of Transportation

NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDWR	Nevada Division of Water Resources
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NI	No Indicator
NNHP	Nevada Natural Heritage Program
NO <sub>x</sub>	Nitrogen Oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NVCRIS	Nevada Cultural Resources Information System
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
NWPP	Northwest Power Pool area
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWS	National Weather Service
OBL	Obligate
OGW	Other Ground Water
OHV	Off-highway Vehicle
OHWM	Ordinary High Water Mark
ON Line Project	One Nevada 500 kV Transmission Line Project
OPTC	Operating Permit to Construct
OSHA	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
OSW	Other Surface Water
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PM <sub>10</sub>	Particulate matter with diameter less than 10 microns
PPA	Pollution Prevention Act
PRIMP	Paleontological Resource Impact Mitigation Program
PSD	Prevention of Significant Deterioration
PUCN	Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
PZ	Precipitation Zone
rd.	Road
RGL	Regulatory Guidance Letter
RMPA	Rocky Mountain Power Area
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROW	Right-of-way
RV	Recreational Vehicle
SCORP	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SDA	Special Designation Area
SDWA	Safe Drinking Water Act
SEO	State Engineers Office
SIL	Significant Impact Limits
SNPLMA	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act
SNWA	Southern Nevada Water Authority
SO <sub>2</sub>	Sulfur Dioxide
SODAR	Sonic detection and ranging
SR	State Route
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Special Recreation Permit
SWIP	Southwest Intertie Project

TCP	Traditional Cultural Property
TE&S	Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive
TEPC	Threatened, Endangered, Proposed, and Candidate
TV	Television
Ug/m <sup>3</sup>	micrograms per cubic meter
UNLV	University of Nevada Las Vegas
UPL	Obligate Upland
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
UV	Ultraviolet
VHF	Very high frequency
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WA	Wilderness Area
WECC	Western Electricity Coordinating Council
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WPES	White Pine Energy Station
WSA	Wilderness Study Area
WVEC	West-wide Energy Corridor
yr	Year

## 7.4 Units of Measure

C	Celsius
Cfs	cubic feet per second
dB	decibel
dBA	A-weighted decibel sound scale
dw	dry weight
F	Fahrenheit
ft	feet
g	grams
gal	gallon
gpm	gallons per minute
ha	hectares
in	inch
kV	kilovolt
kW	kilowatt
lb	pound
m	meters
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
mg/L	milligrams per liter
mi	miles
mm	millimeters
MM	million
mph	miles per hour
ppm	parts per million
%	percent
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	micrograms per cubic meter

## 7.5 Glossary

**Action.** In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), describes actions proposed to meet a specific purpose and need that may have effects on the environment, which are potentially subject to Federal control and responsibility. Federal actions generally fall into the categories of adoption of official policy, formal plans, and programs; or approval of specific projects. For this document, the term action applies to a specific project.

**Air Quality.** A measure of the health-related and visual characteristics of the air, often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances.

**Alluvial.** Pertaining to material or processes associated with transportation or deposition of soil and rock by flowing water (e.g., streams and rivers).

**Alluvium.** Soil and rock deposited by flowing water (e.g., streams and rivers); consists of unconsolidated deposits of sediment, such as silt, sand, and gravel.

**Alternative.** Any one of a number of options for a project.

**Ambient.** Surrounding, existing, background conditions.

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

**Animal unit month (AUM).** The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow and one calf (e.g., a 1,000-pound cow and calf) for a period of one month.

**Annual (ecology).** A plant that completes its development in one year or one season and then dies.

**Anthropogenic (climate change/global warming).** Resulting from or produced by human beings.

**Aquatic.** Growing or living in or near the water.

**Aquifer.** A water-bearing rock unit (unconsolidated or bedrock) that will yield water in a usable quantity to a well or spring.

**Archaeological site.** A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.

**Archaeology.** The scientific study of the life and culture of past, especially ancient, peoples, as by excavation of ancient cities, relics, artifacts, etc.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).** A Bureau of Land Management (BLM) designation pertaining to areas where specific management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

**Arroyo.** A dry gully, or a stream in a dry region.

**Artifact.** Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

**Assessment.** The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

**Backfill.** The excavated material (soil and/or rock) used to refill a hole/trench created during construction activities (i.e., drilling foundation holes). The excavated material used to fill a hole/trench in the groundbed (i.e., structure foundations). The composition of the backfill varies based on the soil type at the excavation site and the component being covered.

**Background (visual).** That portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis here is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

**Basic Elements (visual).** The four major elements (form, line, color, and texture) that determine how the character of a landscape is perceived.

**Baseline.** The existing conditions against which impacts of the proposed action and its alternatives can be compared.

**Basin.** A depressed area having no surface outlet (topographic basin); a physiographic feature or subsurface structure that is capable of collecting, storing, or discharging water by reason of its shape and the characteristics of its confining material (water); a depression in the earth's surface, the lowest part often filled by a lake or pond (lake basin); a part of a river or canal widened (drainage, river, stream basin).

**Best Management Practices (BMPs).** Vegetative and structural methods to control erosion and sedimentation.

**Big Game.** Large species of wildlife that are hunted (such as elk, mule deer, and pronghorn antelope).

**Biological Assessment.** Information prepared by or under the direction of the federal agency concerning Endangered Species Act proposed or listed species that may be present in the action area and the evaluation of potential effects of the action on such species and habitats. The purpose of the biological assessment is to evaluate the potential effects of the action on listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat, and determine whether any such species and habitats are likely to be affected by the action. Biological Assessments are conducted for federal actions that involve project areas and activities with potential to directly or indirectly affect listed species.

**Biological Opinion.** A document that is the product of formal consultation on a Biological Assessment, stating the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on whether or not a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Endangered Species Act-listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

**Butte.** A steep hill standing alone in a plain.

**Candidate Species.** A plant or animal species not yet officially listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, but which is undergoing status review by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Clean Air Act of 1990.** Federal legislation governing air pollution. The Clean Air Act established National Ambient Air Quality Standards for carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, ozone, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, and lead. Prevention of Significant Deterioration classifications define the allowable increased levels of air quality deterioration above legally established levels and include the following:

**Class I** – minimal additional deterioration in air quality (certain national parks and wilderness areas)

**Class II** – moderate additional deterioration in air quality (most lands)

**Class III** – greater deterioration for planned maximum growth (industrial areas)

**Clean Water Act of 1987.** National environmental law enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency that regulates water pollution.

**Contrast (visual).** The effect of a striking difference in form, line, color, or texture of the landscape features within the area being viewed.

**Cooperating Agency.** Assists the lead federal agency in developing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. The Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing NEPA define a cooperating agency as any agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise for proposals covered by NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6). Any federal, state, or local government jurisdiction with such qualification may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ).** An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effort on environmental studies and advises the President on environmental matters.

**Criteria.** Standards on which a judgment or decision can be based.

**Cubic feet per second (CFS).** Unit of discharge, or volume rate of flow, equal to 0.0283 cubic meters per second. As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a referenced section in one second. A measure of a moving volume of water.

**Cultural Resources.** Remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor as reflected in districts, sites, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features important in human events.

**Cumulative effect (or impact).** The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Cumulative impacts are evaluated as part of the EIS, and may include consideration of additive or interactive effects regardless of what agency or person undertakes the other actions.

**dba.** The sound pressure levels in decibels measured with a frequency weighing network corresponding to the A-scale on a standard sound level meter. The A-scale tends to suppress lower frequencies (e.g., below 1,000 Hz).

**Decibel (dB).** One-tenth of a Bel is a measure on a logarithmic scale that indicates the ratio between two sound powers. A ratio of 2 in power corresponds to a difference of 3 decibels between two sounds. The decibel is the basic unit of sound measure.

**Direct effect.** See effect.

**Discharge.** Outflow of surface water in a stream or canal (water). Discharge from an industrial facility that may contain pollutants harmful to fish or animals if it is released into nearby water bodies usually requires a permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is monitored.

**Drainage.** The natural or artificial removal of surface water and groundwater from a given area. Many agricultural soils need drainage to improve production or to manage water supplies.

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

**Ecology.** The relationship between living organisms and their environment.

**Effect (impact).** A modification of the existing environment as it presently exists, caused by an action (such as construction or operation of facilities). An effect may be direct, indirect, or cumulative. The terms effect and impact are synonymous under the NEPA. A direct effect is caused by an action and occurs at the same time and same place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)). An indirect effect is caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water or other natural systems including ecosystems.

**Emergent.** Vegetation with all or part of their vegetative and reproductive parts above the water.

**Emission.** Effluent discharged into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time, and considered when analyzing air quality.

**Endangered Species.** Species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Endangered species are rarely identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

**Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973.** Provides a means whereby the ecosystems upon which threatened and endangered species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such threatened and endangered species. The ESA requires all federal agencies to seek to conserve threatened and endangered species, use applicable authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the ESA, and avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of any species that is listed or proposed for listing as threatened and endangered or destroying or adversely modifying its designated or proposed critical habitat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for administration of this act.

**Endemic.** Plants or animals native to a particular region or country.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed action and released to the public for review and comment. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed action.

**Environmental Justice.** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. Fair treatment means that no group of people including racial, ethnic, or socioeconomic group should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of federal, state, local, and tribal programs and policies (see Executive Order 12898).

**Ephemeral stream (wash, creek, waterbody).** A stream or portion of a stream which flows briefly in direct response to precipitation in the immediate vicinity, and whose channel is at all times above the water table.

**Erosion.** The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents and by such processes as “gravitation creep.”

**Evapotranspiration (ET).** The portion of precipitation returned to the air through evaporation and transpiration by plants.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).** Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Established public land policy for management of lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (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 for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources; (4) public lands retained in federal ownership; and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

**Federal Register.** Published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives, and Records Administration, the *Federal Register* is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents.

**Floodplain.** The low and relatively flat areas adjacent to rivers and streams. A 100-year floodplain is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

**Folds.** A bend in planar features in rocks - like an extended wrinkle. A fold is usually the product of geologic deformation.

**Forage.** Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly big game wildlife and domestic livestock.

**Foreground (visual).** The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of 0.5 mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

**Forbs.** Any herbaceous plant other than a grass.

**Fossil.** Any remains, trace, or imprint of a plant or animal that has been preserved by natural process in the earth's crust since some past geologic time.

**Game Species.** Animals commonly hunted for food or sport.

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

**Geology.** The science that relates to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes that the earth has undergone or is undergoing.

**Geothermal Resource.** Heat found in rocks and fluids at various depths within the earth's crust that can be extracted by drilling or pumping for use as an energy source. This heat may be residual heat, friction heat, or a result of radioactive decay.

**Global Warming.** An increase in the average temperature of the earth's atmosphere and oceans. The term is also used to describe the theory that increasing temperatures are the result of a strengthening greenhouse effect caused primarily by manmade increases in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

**Greenhouse Effect and Greenhouse Gases.** The warming of the earth and its atmosphere through the trapping of heat from the sun by gases, known as greenhouse gases, in the earth's atmosphere.

**Groundwater.** Subsurface water that fills available openings in rock or soil materials to the extent that they are considered water saturated.

**Habitat.** A specific set of physical conditions in a geographic area(s) that surrounds a single species, group of species, or large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are food, water, cover, and living space.

**Headwaters.** The source of a stream or river.

**Hydrology.** The study of the movement, distribution, and quality of water throughout the earth, addresses both the hydrologic cycle and water resources.

**Hydric Soils.** Soils that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation.

**Hydrographic basin (area, region, unit).** A geographic area drained by a single major stream or an area consisting of a drainage system comprised of streams and often natural or man-made lakes. See also basin.

**Hydrophytic Vegetation.** The total of macrophytic plant life that occurs in areas where the frequency and duration of inundation or soil saturation produce permanently or periodically saturated soils of sufficient duration to exert a controlling influence on the plant species present.

**Impact.** See effect.

**Indirect effect.** See effect.

**Infrastructure.** The facilities, services, and equipment needed for a community or facility to function, such as and including roads, sewers, water lines, and electric lines.

**Intermittent.** A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

**Invasive Species.** Describes a large number of non-native plant species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

**Key Observation Point (KOP).** An observer position on a travel route used to determine visible area.

**Kilovolt (kV).** A unit of power equivalent to 1,000 volts (A volt is a measure of electrical potential difference that would cause a current of 1 ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm).

**Kilowatt (kW).** A unit of power equivalent to 1,000 watts.

**Labor Force.** All persons 16 years of age or over who are either employed or unemployed and actively looking for a job.

**Landform.** A term used to describe the many land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

**Land Use Plan.** The organized direction or management of the use of lands and their resources to best meet human needs over time, according to the land's capabilities.

**Lease.** An authorization or contract by which one party (lessor) conveys the use of property to another (lessee) in return for rental payments. In cases of resource production, lessees pay royalties to the lessor in addition to rental payments.

**Lithic.** Pertaining to stone or a stone tool (for example, lithic artifact).

**Megawatt (MW).** A unit for measuring power equal to one million watts. The productive capacity of electrical generators is measured in megawatts.

**Mesa.** An isolated, nearly level land mass, formed on nearly horizontal rocks, standing above the surrounding country and bounded with steep sides.

**Mesic.** Moist habitats associated with springs, seeps, and riparian areas.

**Minimal (impact).** Unless otherwise specified "minimal" shall mean non-deleterious impacts that are measureable in the short term, but not significant.

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

**National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air specified by the federal government and established by the Clean Air Act. 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 (NEPA) of 1969.** Our nation's basic charter for protection of the environment. It establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. In accordance with NEPA, all federal agencies must prepare a written statement on the environmental impacts of a proposed action. The provisions to ensure that federal agencies act according to the letter and spirit of NEPA are the CEQ regulations for implementing NEPA 943 CFR 1500-1508).

**National Register of Historic Places.** A listing, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior, of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects worthy of preservation. To be eligible a property must normally be at least 50 years old, unless it has exceptional significance, and have national, state, or local significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture; and possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association; and (a) be associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of history, (b) be associated with the lives of persons significant to our past, (c) embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or (d) have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

**Negligible (impact).** Unless otherwise specified, "negligible" shall mean impacts of such a small scale such as to be non-measurable.

**Non-attainment area.** An air quality control region (or portion thereof) in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has determined that ambient air concentrations exceed national ambient air quality standards for one or more criteria pollutants.

**Noxious Weed.** Nonnative plant species that negatively impact crops, native plant communities, and/or management of natural or agricultural systems. Noxious weeds are officially designated by a number of states (including Nevada and Utah) and federal agencies.

**Ohm.** A unit of electrical resistance equal to that of a conductor in which a current of one ampere is produced by a potential of one volt across its terminals.

**Perennial (ecology).** A plant whose root remains alive more than two years.

**Perennial Stream.** A stream that flows throughout the year and from source to mouth.

**Permeability.** The capacity of porous rock, sediment, or soil to transmit a fluid.

**pH.** The negative log<sub>10</sub> of the hydrogen ion activity in solution; measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution.

**PM<sub>2.5</sub>.** Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

**PM<sub>10</sub>.** Particulate matter less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter.

**Prime Farmland.** A special category of highly productive cropland that is recognized and described by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service and receives special protection under the Surface Mining Law of 1977.

**Public Land.** Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered through agencies such as the BLM and FS without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except lands on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held in trust for the benefit of American Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**Range.** A large, open area of land over which livestock can wander and graze.

**Raptor.** A bird of prey (e.g., eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls).

**Reclamation.** Restoration of land disturbed by natural or human activity (e.g., mining, pipeline construction) to original contour, use, or condition. Also describes the return of land to alternative uses that may, under certain circumstances, be different from those prior to disturbance.

**Recontouring.** Return a land surface to or near to its original form through earth-moving equipment such as front-end loaders, backhoes, hand rakes, hoes, shovels, etc.

**Record of Decision.** A document separate from, but associated with an EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on a proposed action.

**Reservation.** Land set aside to achieve a particular land use or conservation objective. For the purposes of this document, reservation refers to those lands managed by an American Indian tribe under the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. The reservation land is federal territory held in trust for tribes. The American Indian tribes have national sovereignty.

**Revegetation.** The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as reseeding.

**Right-of-way.** Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project, such as a road or utility.

**Riparian.** Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Riparian is normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams, rivers, or at spring and seep sites.

**Resource Management Plan.** Document that establishes direction for the use of resources to best meet the needs of humans over time, according to the resource potential or capability.

**Scoping.** Procedures by which agencies determine the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action (i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed; identification of significant issues related to a proposed action; and the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed).

**Sediment.** Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, that is transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

**Sedimentation.** The result when soil or mineral is transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers and deposited in streams or other bodies of water, or on land. Also, letting solids settle out of wastewater by gravity during treatment.

**Sediment Load.** The amount of sediment (sand, silt, and fine particles) carried by a stream or river.

**Sensitive Receptor.** In terms of noise, people or animals that might hear a noise or be sensitive to increased noise levels within their range of hearing. In terms of air quality, people or animals that might be impacted by dust or particulate matter within two miles of construction activities.

**Sensitive Species.** Those plant or animal species that are susceptible or vulnerable to activity impacts or habitat alterations.

**Significant (impact).** As used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole, and the affected region, interests, and locality. Intensity refers to the severity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27).

**Special Status Species.** Wildlife and plant species either federally listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened; state-listed; or priority species of concern to federal agencies or tribes.

**Substation.** A facility where electrical voltage is either increased or decreased through the use of transformers; electric lines are interconnected at one or more voltage; and electric power is metered and regulated to provide safe and stable voltage for end-use customers.

**Take.** A prohibited action under federal law, except where authorized (i.e., incidental take). To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect a federally listed threatened or endangered species, or to attempt to do so. Take may include disturbance of the listed species, nest, or habitat, when disturbance is extensive enough to disrupt normal behavior patterns for the species, although the affected individuals may not actually die.

**Traditional Cultural Property.** A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP), as defined in the NHPA, is a property that is eligible for inclusion on the NRHP “because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community’s history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community (Parker and King 1994).” Stated another way, a significant TCP is defined as a property with “significance derived from the role the property plays in a community’s historically rooted beliefs, customs, and practices (Parker and King 1994).”

**Transition Zone.** The area between two discrete environmental areas, and thus containing elements of each. For example, the transition zone between an upland pinyon forest and a lowland desert scrub environment.

**Threatened Species.** Any species of plant or animal which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Tribe.** See American Indian tribe.

**Undertaking.** A project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a federal agency; those carried out with federal financial assistance; those requiring a federal permit, license, or approval; and those subject to state or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval of a federal agency.

**Ungulate.** A hoofed mammal.

**Vegetation communities.** Species of plants that commonly live together in the same region or ecotone.

**View-shed.** Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance, and existing cultural modifications.

**Visibility.** The distance to which an observer can distinguish objects from their background. The determinants of visibility include the characteristics of the target object (shape, size, color, pattern), the angle and intensity of sunlight, the observer's eyesight, and any screening present between the viewer and the object (i.e., vegetation, landform, even pollution such as regional haze).

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

**Waters of the United States.** All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to water of the United States; and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

**Watershed.** Drainage basin for which surface water flows to a single point.

**Wetlands.** Areas inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

**Wetland Values.** Based on societal properties by which wetlands are determined to be useful, or impart public good.

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

**Wilderness Study Area.** A roadless area of 5,000 acres or more, or a roadless island, that has been inventoried and found to possess wilderness characteristics as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

## 7.6 Explanation of Impacts

**Negligible** – A change in current conditions that is too small to be physically measured using normal methods or perceptible to a trained human observer. There is no noticeable effect on the natural or baseline setting. There are no required changes in management or utilization of the resource.

**Minor** – A change in current conditions that is just measurable with normal methods or barely perceptible to a trained human observer. The change may affect individuals of a population or a small (<10 percent) portion of a resource but does not result in a modification in the overall population, or the value or productivity of the resource. There are no required changes in management or utilization of the resource.

**Moderate** – An easily measurable change in current conditions that is readily noticeable to a trained human observer. The change affects 25 to 75 percent of individuals of a population or similar portion of a resource which may lead to modification or loss in viability in the overall population, or the value or productivity of the resource. There are some required changes in management or utilization of the resource.

**Major** – A large measurable change in current conditions that is easily recognized by all human observers. The change affects more than 75 percent of individuals of a population or similar portion of a resource which leads to significant modification in the overall population, or the value or productivity of the resource. There are profound or complete changes in management or utilization of the resource. An impact that is not in compliance with applicable regulatory standards or thresholds.