

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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Abundance: The total number of individuals of a species in an area, population, or community.

Accelerated Erosion: Erosion in excess of natural rates, usually as a result of anthropogenic activities.

Accessibility: The ease with which an area can be reached and grazed by animals. The ease with which herbivores can reach plant or plant parts.

Active Preference: That portion of the total grazing preference for which grazing use may be authorized.

Activity Plan: A type of implementation plan (see Implementation plan); an activity plan usually describes multiple projects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Examples of activity plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, recreation area management plans, and allotment management plans.

Active Use: Livestock grazing term meaning the current authorized use, including livestock grazing and conservation use. Active use may constitute a portion, or all, of permitted use. Active use does not include temporary non-use or suspended use of forage within all or a portion of an allotment. Same as Authorized Active Use, Active Grazing Use, (43CFR4100.0-5)

Actual Use: (1) The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM. (2) A report of the actual livestock grazing use certified to be accurate by the permittee or lessee. Actual use may be expressed in terms of animal unit months or animal months.

Administrative Determination: Process to determine is a proposed action if fully analyzed by an existing environmental document and to determine if further National Environmental Policy Act compliance is required.

Administrative Unit: Field Office, Resource Area, District, or State.

Administrative Use: Official use related to management and resources of the public lands by Federal, State or local governments or non-official use sanctioned by an appropriate authorization instrument, such as right-of-way, permit, lease, or maintenance agreement.

Administrative Route: Routes that are limited to administrative (official or authorized) users only.

Administrative Purposes: Administrative use functions involving regular maintenance or operation of facilities or programs.

Age Classes: The distribution of different ages of the same species or group of species on a site.

Air Quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act of 1978.

Air Quality Non-attainment Areas: Areas where EPA National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are not met for at least one of six pollutants: particulate matter with diameter of ten microns or less (PM10), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), ozone (O₃), or volatile organic compounds (VOC).

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Airshed: A geographic area that, because of topography, meteorology, and/or climate, is frequently affected by the same air mass.

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 Management Plan (AMP): (1) A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment. (2) A documented program which applies to livestock grazing on the public lands, prepared by consulting, cooperating, and coordinating with the permittee(s), lessee(s), or other interested publics.

Alluvial Fan: A low, outspread, relatively flat to gently sloping mass of loose rock material deposited by a stream where it flows from a narrow mountain valley onto a plain or broad valley.

Alluvium: Any sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, floodplain, or delta.

Amendment: The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Management Framework Plans (MFPs). Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

Animal Month: A month's tenure upon the rangeland by one animal. Animal month is not synonymous with animal unit month.

Animal Unit: Considered to be one mature cow of approximately 1,000 pounds, either dry or with calf up to six months of age, or their equivalent, based on a standardized amount of forage consumed.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): (1) A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow unit or its equivalent for 1 month, approximately 800 pounds of forage. (2) The amount of dry forage required by one animal unit for one month, based on a forage allowance of 26 pounds per day.

Annual Plant: A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in one year or less.

Annual Production (synonymous with Primary Production): The conversion of solar energy to chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis. It is represented by the total quantity of organic material produced within a given period of time.

Anthropogenic: Related to or the result of the influence of human beings on nature.

Apparent Trend: An assessment, using professional judgement, based on a one-time observation. It includes consideration of such factors as plant vigor, abundance of seedlings and young plants, accumulation or lack of plant residues on the soil surface, and soil surface characteristics (i.e., crusting, gravel pavement, pedicled plants, and sheet or rill erosion).

Appeal: Application for review of an implementation decision by a higher administrative level.

Aquifer: A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding large amounts of water.

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

Arid: A term applied to regions or climates where lack of sufficient moisture severely limits growth and production of vegetation. The limits of precipitation vary considerably according to temperature conditions, with an upper annual limit for cool regions of 10 inches (25 cm) or less and for tropical regions as much as 15 to 20 inches (38 to 51 cm).

Arthropod: One of the largest animal groups characterized by jointed limbs and a hard, jointed external skeleton, including insects and arachnids (spiders, scorpions, and mites).

Aspect: (1) The visual first impression of vegetation or a landscape at a particular time or as seen from a specific point. (2) The predominant direction of slope of the land. (3) The seasonal changes in the appearance of vegetation.

Assessment: (1) The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose. (2) The process of estimating or judging the value or functional status of ecological processes (e.g., rangeland health).

At Risk: Rangelands that have a reversible loss in productive capability and increased vulnerability to irreversible degradation based upon an evaluation of current conditions of the soil and ecological processes. At risk designation may point out the need for additional information to better quantify the functional status of an attribute.

Attribute: One of the three components, soil/site stability hydrologic function, and integrity of the biotic community that collectively define rangeland health.

Authorized Use: Number of AUMs that a permittee is allowed to grazing during a given season of use. Does not include Temporary Suspended Use. Same as Authorized Livestock Use,

Available Forage: That portion of the forage production that is accessible for use by a specified kind or class of grazing animal.

Available Water: The portion of water in a soil that can be absorbed by plant roots.

Avoidance Areas: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas would have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not otherwise feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

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Background Level: The amount of a pollutant present in water or air from natural sources.

Badland: A land type consisting of steep or very steep barren land, usually broken by an intricate maze of narrow ravines, sharp crests, and pinnacles resulting from serious erosion of soft geologic materials.

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Bare Ground (Bare Soil): All land surfaces not covered by vegetation, rock or litter. As used in this document, visible biological crust and standing dead vegetation are included in cover estimates as a type of vegetation and therefore are not bare ground.

Basal Area (Plants): The cross-sectional area of the stem or stems of a plant or of all plants in a stand. Herbaceous and small woody plants are measured at or near ground level; larger woody plants are measured at breast or other designated height.

Bedload: Sediment in a stream that moves by sliding, rolling, or bounding on or near the streambed.

Big Game: Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

Biodiversity: The diversity of living organisms considered at all levels of organization including genetics, species, and higher taxonomic levels, and the variety of habitats and ecosystems, as well as the processes occurring therein.

Biotic Communities: The assemblage of native and exotic plants and of a particular site or landscape, including microorganisms, fungi, algae, vascular and herbaceous plants, invertebrates, and vertebrates. These assemblages and their biotic and abiotic relationships serve landscape and watershed functions by promoting soil properties supporting water infiltration, recycling and transfer, species survival, and sustainable population dynamics.

Biological Crusts (also known as microbiotic, microphytic, cryptogamic, or cryptobiotic crusts/soils): Biological communities that form a surface layer or thin crust on some soils. These communities consist of cyanobacteria (blue-green bacteria), microfungi, mosses, lichens, and green algae and perform many important functions, including fixing nitrogen and carbon, maintaining soil surface stability, and preventing erosion. These crusts are slow to recover after disturbance, requiring 40 years or more to recolonize small areas. These microorganisms typically grow on or just below the soil surface.

Biomass (Plants): The total amount of living plants above and below ground in an area at a given time.

Biome: A major biotic unit consisting of plant and animal communities having similarities in form and environmental conditions, but not including the abiotic portion of the environment.

Biotic Integrity: Synonymous with “integrity of the biotic community” (see definition).

Browse: To browse (verb) is to graze a plant; also, browse (noun) is the tender shoots, twigs and leaves of trees and shrubs often used as food by livestock and wildlife.

Bunchgrass: Individual grasses that have the characteristic growth habit of forming a bunch as opposed to having stolens or rhizomes or single annual habit.

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Calcareous: Containing enough fine carbonates that the soil will effervesce visibly when treated with drops of cold, dilute hydrochloric acid.

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Calf Crop: The number of calves weaned from a given number of cows exposed to breeding, usually expressed in percent (i.e., number of calves ÷ number of cows exposed X 100 = percent calf crop).

Candidate species: Any species included in the Federal Register notice of review being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Canopy: (1) The uppermost layer consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs in a forest or woodland. (2) The vertical projection downward of the aerial portion of vegetation expressed as a percent of the ground so occupied. (3) The aerial portion of the over story vegetation.

Canopy Cover: The percentage of the ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of foliage of plants. Small opening within the canopy are included. It may exceed 100 percent.

Canopy Closure: The progressive reduction of space between crowns as they spread laterally, increasing canopy cover.

Carrying Capacity: (1) The maximum stocking rate possible without damaging vegetation or related resources. (2) The average number of livestock and wildlife that may be sustained on a management unit compatibly with management objectives. It is a function of site characteristics, and management goals and intensity.

Channel: An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

Clean Air Act: Federal legislation governing air pollution. Prevention of Significant Deterioration above legally established levels.

Chemical Soil Crust: A soil-surface layer, ranging in thickness from a few millimeters to a few centimeters, which is formed when chemical compounds become concentrated on the soil surface. They can reduce infiltration and increase overland water flow similar to physical crusts. They are usually identified by a white color on the soil surface.

Class of Animal: Description of age-and/sex-group for a particular kind of animal.

Class of Livestock: The age and/or sex groups of a kind of livestock.

Climate: The average or prevailing weather conditions of a place over a period of years.

Climax: The culminating stage in plant succession for a given site where vegetation has reached a highly stable condition.

Climax Plant Community (e.g., Climax): The final or stable biotic community in a successional series; it is self-perpetuating and in equilibrium with the physical habitat.

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

Closed: Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses; refer to specific definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs. For

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example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 sets forth the specific meaning of “closed” as it relates to off-highway vehicle use, and 43 CFR 8364 defines “closed” as it relates to closure and restriction orders.

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

Collaboration: A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions with broad support for managing public and other lands. This may or may not involve an agency as a cooperating agency.

Community: An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Competition: The interaction between organisms as a result of removal or reduction of a common, required resource from the environment. Resources may include water, nutrients, light, oxygen, carbon dioxide, food, and shelter.

Composition: The proportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area; it may be expressed in terms of cover, density, weight, etc. Synonymous with species composition.

Conformance: That a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.

Conservation: The use and management of natural resources according to principles that ensure their sustained economic and/or social benefits without impairment of environmental quality.

Conservation Agreement: A formal signed agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service and other parties that implements specific actions, activities, or programs designed to eliminate or reduce threats or otherwise improve the status of a species. Conservation agreements can be developed at a State, regional, or national level and generally include multiple agencies at both the State and Federal level, as well as tribes. Depending on the types of commitments the BLM makes in a conservation agreement and the level of signatory authority, plan revisions or amendments may be required prior to signing the conservation agreement, or subsequently in order to implement the conservation agreement.

Conservation Strategy: A strategy outlining current activities or threats that are contributing to the decline of a species, along with the actions or strategies needed to reverse or eliminate such a decline or threats. Conservation strategies are generally developed for species of plants and animals that are designated as BLM Sensitive species or that have been determined by the Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service to be Federal candidates under the Endangered Species Act.

Consistency: The proposed land use plan does not conflict with officially approved plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other Federal agencies, and state, and local governments to the extent practical within Federal law, regulation, and policy.

Consumer: Heterotrophic organism, chiefly animal, which ingests other organisms or particulate organic matter.

Cool Season Plants: Plants where the major growth occurs during the late fall, winter, and early spring.

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Cooperating Agency: Assists the lead Federal agency in developing an Environmental Analysis 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 tribe or Federal, State, or local government jurisdiction with such qualifications may become a cooperating agency by agreement with the lead agency.

Coordinated Resource Management (CRM): A process in which various user groups discuss alternated resource uses, diagnose management problems establish goals and objectives, and evaluate multiple-use management options.

Corridor: A wide strip of land within which a proposed linear facility could be located.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the national Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the president on environmental matters.

Cover: (1) Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators). (2) The plant or plant parts, living or dead, on the surface of the ground. Vegetative cover or herbage cover is composed of living plants (including biological crusts), and the litter cover of dead parts of plants.

Critical Habitat: An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection.

Cultural Resources: Nonrenewable elements of the physical and human environment including archaeological remains (evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities) and socio-cultural values traditionally held by ethnic groups (sacred places, traditionally used raw materials, etc.).

Cultural Site: Any location that includes prehistoric and/or historic evidence of human use, or that has important socio-cultural value.

Cumulative Impact: The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. 40CFR1508.7

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Deciduous: Pertaining to plants that shed all their leaves every year in a certain season.

Deciduous Plant: Plant parts, particularly leaves, that are shed at regular intervals or at a given stage of development (i.e., a deciduous plant regularly loses or sheds its leaves).

Deferment: Delay of livestock grazing on an area for an adequate period of time to provide for plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of vigor.

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Deferred Grazing: The use of deferment in grazing management, but not in a systematic rotation.

Deferred Rotation Grazing: Discontinuance of livestock grazing on various parts of a range in succeeding years. Two, but more commonly three or more, separate pastures are required.

Deferred-rotation: A grazing system that provides for a systematic rotation of the deferment among pastures.

Decomposition: The biochemical breakdown of organic matter into its original compounds and nutrients.

Density: Numbers of individual or stems per unit area (does not equate to any kind of cover measurement).

Desert: Land on which the vegetation is absent or sparse, often shrubby, and characterized by an arid climate (less than 12 inches average annual precipitation).

Desertification: The process by which an area or region becomes more arid through loss of soil and vegetation cover.

Desired Future Condition: A type of land use plan decision that is a broad statement of desired outcomes for a use.

Desired Plant Community (DPC): Of the several plant communities that may occupy a site, the one that has been identified through a management plan to best meet the plan's objectives for the site. It must protect the site as a minimum.

Direct Impact(s): Impacts which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Director (BLM Director): The national Director of the BLM.

Discharge (Water): The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given place or within a given period of time.

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

Dominant Species: Plant species or species groups, which by means of their number, coverage, or size, have considerable influence or control upon the conditions of existence of associated species.

Drainage: The removal of excess water from land by surface or subsurface flow.

Drought: Prolonged dry weather, generally when precipitation is less than 75% of average annual amount.

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Ecological Site Inventory (ESI): The basic inventory of present and potential vegetation on BLM rangelands. Ecological site inventory uses soils, the existing plant community, and ecological site data to determine the appropriate ecological site for a specific area of rangeland.

Ecological Processes: Ecological processes include the water cycle (the capture, storage, and redistribution of precipitation), energy flow (conversion of sunlight to plant and animal matter), and nutrient cycle (the cycle of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus through the physical and biotic components of the environment). Ecological processes functioning within a normal range of variation will support specific plant and animal communities.

Ecological Reference Area: A landscape unit in which ecological processes are functioning within a normal range of variability and the plant community has adequate resistance to and resiliency from most disturbances. These areas do not need to be pristine, historically unused lands (e.g., climax plant communities or relict areas).

Ecological Site: A kind of land with specific physical characteristics which differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and in its response to management. Apparently synonymous with ecological type used by USDA Forest Service. Syn. rangeland ecological site.

Ecological Site Description: Description of the soil, uses, and potential of a kind of land with specific physical characteristics to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation.

Ecological Status: Ecological status is the present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the potential natural community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the potential natural plant community for the site.

Ecology: The interrelationships of organisms with their environment.

Ecosystem: (1) Organism together with their abiotic environment, forming an interacting system, inhabiting an identifiable space. (2) A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

Emission: Effluent discharge into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time.

Endangered Species: A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior, and as is further defined by the Endangered Species Act.

Environment: The sum of all external conditions that affect an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed federal action and provides sufficient evidence to determine the level of significance of the impacts.

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Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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 environment consequences resulting from industrial, municipal, and commercial operations or the execution of Federal, state, local, and Tribal programs and policies.

Erodibility: The degree or intensity of a soils state or condition of, susceptibility to, being erodible.

Erosion: The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.

Estimated Use: The use made of forage on an area by wildlife, wild horses, wild burros, and/or livestock where actual use data are not available. Estimated use may be expressed in terms of animal unit months or animal months.

Evaluation: (1) An examination and judgment concerning the worth, quality, significance, amount, degree, or condition of something; or (2) the systematic process for determining the effectiveness of on-the-ground management actions and assessing progress toward meeting objectives.

Evaluation (plan evaluation): The process of reviewing the land use plan and the periodic plan monitoring reports to determine whether the land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the plan is being implemented.

Evaluator(s): The person or persons conducting the evaluation of rangeland health on an area of interest.

Evergreen Plant: A plant that has leaves all year long, and generally sheds them in a single season after new leaves of the current growing season have matured.

Exclosure: An area fenced to exclude animals.

Exotic Plant: (1) A plant species that is not native to the region in which it is found, whose introduction does or is likely to cause harm to the economy, environment, or human health. Executive Order 11987 more broadly defines “exotic” as any species not naturally occurring either presently or historically in an ecosystem in the United States. (2) A plant that is not born, growing, or produced naturally (native) in an area, region, or country. Synonymous with ‘non-indigenous plant.’

-F-

Fan: An accumulation of debris brought down by a stream descending through a steep ravine and debouching in the plain beneath, where the detrital material spreads out in the shape of a fan, forming a section of a very low cone.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976: Public Law 94-579. October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM’s Organic Act, which provides the majority of the BLM’s legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

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Federal Register: A daily publication which reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

Fire Return Intervals: Time between consecutive wildland fires in a given area; fire frequency. Often described as the typical range of years between fires in a healthy, functioning ecosystem.

Fishery: Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

Flood Plain: The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water which has been or might be covered by floodwater.

Forage: (1) Browse and herbage which is available and can provide food for animals or be harvested for feeding; or (2) to search for or consume forage.

Forage Allocation: The planning process or act of apportioning available forage among various kinds of animals (e.g., elk and cattle).

Forage Production: The weight of forage that is produced within a designated period of time or given area. Production may be expressed as green, air dry, or oven dry weight. The term may also be modified as to time of production such as annual, current year, or seasonal forage production.

Forb: (1) Any herbaceous plant that is not a grass, sedge, or rush (i.e., any nongrass-like plant having little or no woody material on it). (2) A broadleaved flowering plant that's above ground stem does not become woody and persistent.

Formation: A body of rock identified by lithic characteristics and stratigraphic position; it is prevailing, but not necessarily tabular, and is mappable at the earth's surface or traceable in the subsurface.

Fossil: Mineralized or petrified form from a past geologic age, especially from previously living things.

Frequency: A quantitative expression of the presence or absence of individuals of a species in a population. It is defined as the percentage of occurrence of a species in a series of sample of uniform size.

Fugitive Dust: Airborne particles emitted from any source other than through a stack or vent.

Functioning: Refers to the rangeland health attributes where the majority (see definition of "preponderance of evidence") of the associated indicators are functioning properly relative to the ecological site description and/or ecological reference area given the normal range of variability associated with the site and climate.

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General Management Plan: NPS general planning document giving broad guidance to the NPS units, comparable to the BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP).

Goal: The desired state or condition that a resource management policy or program is designed to achieve. A goal is usually not quantifiable and may not have a specific date by which it is to be completed. Goals are the base from which objectives are developed. (See Objective).

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Grass: A group of plants with jointed, hollow, spike-like roots and fibrous roots. A Member of the plant family Poaceae.

Grassland: Land on which the vegetation is dominated by grasses, grasslike plants, and/or forbs. Non-forested lands are classified as grassland if herbaceous vegetation provides at least 80 percent of the canopy cover excluding trees. Lands not presently grassland that were originally or could become grassland through natural succession may be classified as potential natural grassland.

Grasslike Plant: A plant of the Cyperaceae or Juncaceae families which vegetatively resembles a true grass of the Gramineae family.

Grazing Cycle: The total time of one grazing and one rest period in a unit where forage is regularly grazed and rested. Grazing distribution. Dispersion of livestock grazing within a management unit.

Grazing Management: The control of grazing and browsing animals to accomplish a desired result.

Grazing Preference: (1) Selection of plants, or plant parts, over others by grazing animals. (2) In the administration of public lands, a basis upon which grazing-use permits and licenses are issued. Includes Active and Suspended Use. (Same as Full Preference.)

Grazing Pressure: An animal-to-forage relationship measured in terms of animal units per unit weight of forage at any instant.

Grazing System: (1) Grazing management that defines the periods of grazing and non-grazing. (2) The manipulation of livestock grazing to accomplish a desired result.

Ground Cover: (1) Vegetation, mulch, litter, rock, etc. (2) The percentage of material (e.g., litter, standing dead vegetation, gravel/rocks, vegetation, and biological crust), excluding bare soil, covering the land surface.

Groundwater: Water contained in pore spaces of consolidated and unconsolidated surface material.

Guidelines: Actions or management practices that may be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as best management practices. Guidelines may be identified during the land use planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory.

Gully: (1) A channel formed in the soil surface by ephemeral running water, usually considered to be more than 1 foot deep. (2) A furrow, channel, or miniature valley, usually with steep sides through which water commonly flows during and immediately after rains or snow melt.

Gully Erosion: The removal of soil by the forming of relatively large gullies or channels cut into the soil by concentrated surface runoff.

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Habitat: (1) A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space. (2) The natural abode of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and edaphic factors affecting life.

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Habitat Type: The collective area that one plant community occupies or will come to occupy as succession advances to climax.

Hardpan: A hardened soil layer in the lower A horizon or the B horizon caused by cementation of soil particles with organic matter or with materials such as silica or calcium carbonate.

Headcut: Abrupt elevation drops in the channel of a gully that accelerates erosion as it undercuts the gully floor and migrates upstream.

Healthy Rangelands: See definition of “rangeland health.”

Heavy Grazing: A degree of herbage utilization that does not permit the primary forage species to maintain themselves. On most rangelands, heavy grazing involves forage utilization levels above 50%.

Herbaceous: (1) Pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stem plant) as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees. (2) Vegetation growth with little or no woody component; non-woody vegetation such as graminoids and forbs.

Herbicide: A phytotoxic chemical used for killing or inhibiting the growth of plants.

Herbivore: An animal that subsists principally entirely on plants or plant material.

Herbivory: The process of plant consumption by animals.

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

Historic: Period of human occupation defined when the written record appeared (usually at the time of Euroamerican colonization or expansion in the Western Hemisphere), based primarily upon European roots.

Historic Property: Historic or archaeological site which qualifies for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Home Range: The area in which an animal travels in the scope of natural activities

Hummocky: Like a hummock, full of hummocks (a low, rounded hill, knoll, hillock; a tract of wooded land higher than a nearby swamp or marsh).

Hydrologic Function: The capacity of the site to capture, store, and safely release water from rainfall, run-on, and snowmelt (where relevant), to resist a reduction in this capacity, and to recover this capacity, and to recover this capacity following degradation (one of the three attributes of rangeland health).

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Impact(s) (or Effects): Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

Implementation Decisions: Decisions that take action to implement land use plan decisions. They are generally appealable to Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) under 43 CFR 4.410.

Implementation Plan: An area or site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. Implementation plans include both activity plans and project plans (they are types of implementation plans). Examples of implementation plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, and allotment management plans.

Increaser: For a given plant community, those species that increase in amount as a result of a specific abiotic/biotic influence or management practice.

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

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

Indirect Impact(s): Impacts caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

Infiltration: (1) The entry of water into the soil. (2) The downward entry of water into the soil or other material.

Infiltration Rate: Maximum rate at which soil under specified conditions can absorb rain or shallow impounded water, expressed in quantity of water absorbed by the soil per unit of time (e.g., inches/hour).

Infrastructure: The facilities, services, and equipment needed for a community to function including roads, sewers, water lines, police and fire protection, and schools.

Integrity of the Biotic Community: Capacity of a site to support characteristic functional and structural communities in the context or normal variability, to resist loss of this function and structure due to a disturbance, and to recover following such disturbance.

Intensity: In reference to the Grazing Response Index, the proportion of leaves removed during a grazing period.

Interdisciplinary Team: A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new

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solutions. The number and disciplines of the members preparing the plan vary with circumstances. A member may represent one or more discipline or Bureau program interest.

Interim Management Policy (IMP): Policy that guides management of existing Wilderness Study Areas. The policy balances the various uses of Wilderness Study Areas with the requirement to protect the lands wilderness values.

Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA): The Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals board that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because the Interior Board of Land Appeals acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision but are subject to the courts.

Intermittent Stream: A stream that occasionally is dry or reduced to pool stage.

Interpretation: Explaining or telling the meaning of something and presenting it in understandable terms.

Introduced Species: A species not a part of the original fauna or flora of a given area.

Invader: Plant species that were absent in undisturbed portions of the original vegetation of a specific range site and that will invade or increase following disturbance or continued heavy grazing.

Invasive Plant: Plants that are not part of (exotic) or a minor component of (native) the original plant community or communities that increase above what's expected given the normal range of variability of a site.

Invasive Species: With respect to a particular ecosystem, any animal or plant that is not native to that ecosystem whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

Inventory (Rangeland Inventory): The systematic acquisition and analysis of resource information needed for planning and management of rangeland.

Invertebrates: Animals without backbones or internal bony skeletons.

Isopleth: A line on a map connecting points at which a given variable has a specified constant value.

-J-

Jurisdiction: The legal right to control or regulate use of a transportation facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.

-K-

Key Area: A relatively small portion of a range selected because of its location, use or grazing value as a monitoring point for grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the overall acceptability of current grazing management over the range.

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Key Species: Forage species whose use serves as an indicator to the degree of use of associated species.
(2) those species which must, be of their importance, be considered in the management program.

Kind of Livestock: Species of domestic livestock – cattle, sheep, horses, burros, and goats.

-L-

Land Classification: A process for determining the suitability of public lands for certain types of disposal or lease under the public land laws or for retention under multiple use management.

Land Use Allocation: The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

Land Use Plan (LUP): A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed. The term includes both Resource Management Plans (RMPs) and Management Framework Plans (MFPs).

Land Use Plan Decision: establishes desired outcomes and actions needed to achieve them. Decisions are reached using the BLM planning process in 43 CFR 1600. When they are presented to the public as proposed decisions, they can be protested to the BLM Director. They are not appealable to IBLA.

Lentic: Standing water habitats, as in lakes, ponds, bog, marshes, or meadows.

Life Form: Characteristic form or appearance of a species at maturity (e.g., tree, shrub, herb).

Light Grazing: A degree of herbage utilization that allows palatable species to maximize their herbage-producing ability. Typically involves a forage utilization level below 31%.

Litter: The uppermost layer of organic debris on the soil surface, essentially the freshly fallen or slightly decomposed vegetal material.

Livestock Operation: The management of a ranch or farm so that a significant portion of the income is derived from the production of livestock.

Loading: The total amount of a pollutant generated from a specific area of land or received by a water resource during a fixed period of time.

Loamy: Intermediate in texture and properties between fine- and course-textured soils.

Lotic: Running water habitats such as rivers, streams, and springs.

-M-

Maintenance: The work required keeping a facility in such a condition that it may be continuously utilized at its original or designed capacity and efficiency, and for its intended purposes. (Road or trail maintenance actions include [a] signage, [b] minor repairs: e.g. correction of drainage, erosion, or vegetation interference problems. Upon condition assessment performance, maintenance could

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also be construed as [c] allowing road or trail to remain in present state for regular and continuous use.)

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

Management Framework Plan (MFP): Planning decision document prepared before the effective date of the regulations implementing the land use planning provisions of the FLPMA, which establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, and objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection.

Management Practices: Any actions or practices that improve or maintain basic soil and vegetation resources, and better manage livestock. Management practices typically consist of Rangeland Improvements AMPs that establish and grazing systems: seasons-of-use, utilization levels, stocking rate etc., which allows the achievement of standards in conformance with the guidelines.

Minimize: To reduce the adverse impact of an operation to the lowest practical level.

Mitigation Measures: Methods or procedures that reduce or lessen the impacts of an action.

Monitoring: The periodic observation and orderly collection of data on 1) changing conditions of public land related to management actions and 2) the effects of implementing decisions.

Monitoring: The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives. The process must be conducted over time in order to determine whether or not management objectives are being met.

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

Mosaic Pattern: The intermingling of plant communities and their successional stages in such a manner as to give the impression of an interwoven design.

Mulch: (n.) (1) A layer of dead plant material on the soil surface. (2) An artificial layer of material such as paper or plastic on the soil surface. (v.) To place rock, straw, asphalt, plastic, or other material on the soil's surface as surface cover.

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

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

-N-

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air. National ambient air quality standards are based on the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, human-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding or the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establishes the Council on Environmental Quality.

National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS): A system of Congressional, Presidential, or other designated areas managed by the BLM, the components of which include National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Historic Trails, National Scenic Trails, the California Desert Conservation Area, and the Headwaters Forest Reserve.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

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

Native Species, Plant or Vegetation: (1) A species that is a part of the original fauna or flora of a given area. (2) A species that, with respect to a particular ecosystem, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem. Executive Order 11987 more broadly defines “native” as any species naturally occurring either presently or historically in any ecosystem of the United States.

Naturalness: For designated wilderness character: An area which generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable. (From Section 2(c), Wilderness Act.) For wilderness characteristics: Lands and resources exhibit a high degree of naturalness when affected primarily by the forces of nature and where the imprint of human activity is substantially unnoticeable. Attributes of the lands and resources on public lands, which, taken together, are an indication of an area’s naturalness. These attributes may include the presence or absence of roads and trails, fences and other improvements; the nature and extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Negligible Impact: Impact that is small in magnitude and importance and is difficult or impossible to quantify relative to those occurring naturally or due to other actions.

Nitrogen Fixation (Fixers): The biological reduction of molecular nitrogen to chemical forms that can be used by organisms in the synthesis of organic molecules.

No Surface Disturbance: In general, this applies to an area where an activity is allowed so long as it does not disturb the surface.

Non-native: A species that is not a part of the original flora or fauna of the area in question (synonymous with introduced flora or fauna).

Non-Native Invasive Species: Species that were not components of pre-European settlement vegetative communities: which have been introduced, either deliberately or inadvertently; which have the capacity to aggressively invade new habitats, displacing and out-competing native species, and; whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Non-use: Available grazing capacity which is not permitted during a given time period.

Noxious Weeds: A plant species designated by Federal or State law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the United States.

Noxious Species: A plant species that is undesirable because it conflicts, restricts, or otherwise cause problems under management objectives.

-O-

Objective: (1) A description of a desired outcome for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement. (2) Planned results to be achieved within a stated time period. Objectives are subordinate to goals, are narrower in scope and shorter in range, and have increased possibility of attainment. The time periods for completion, and the outputs or achievements that are measurable and quantifiable, are specified. (See Goal).

Operator: Any person who has taken formal responsibility for the operations conducted on the leased lands.

Organic Matter: Living plant tissue, and decomposed or partially decomposed material from living organisms.

Outstanding Opportunities for Solitude:

For designated wilderness: Superior or excellent condition favorable for avoiding the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people in the area or for attaining a state of being alone or remote from others. A lonely or secluded place.

For manage for wilderness characteristics: when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent (and) where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Outstanding Opportunities for Primitive/Unconfined Recreation:

For designated wilderness: Superior or excellent situations favorable for non-motorized, non-mechanical (except as provided by law), and undeveloped types of recreation activities. Provides dispersed, undeveloped recreation, either through the diversity in the number of primitive and unconfined recreational activities possible in the area or the outstanding quality of one opportunity.

For manage for wilderness characteristics: Where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Overgrazing: Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of individual plants in the community and creates a deteriorated range.

Overland Flow: A portion of the precipitation that moves laterally off the site to streams, ponds, reservoirs, and oceans.

Overuse: Using an excessive amount of the current years growth.

Overstory: The upper canopy or canopies of plants, usually referring to trees, shrubs, and vines.

-P-

Palatability: The relish with which a particular species or plant part is consumed by an animal.

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations.

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

Paleozoic: An era of geologic time between the Precambrian and the Mesozoic (about 550 million to 245 million years ago) whose beginning witnessed an explosion in the diversity of multicelled animals and whose conclusion experienced the greatest mass extinctions in history.

Particulate Matter: Fine liquid or solid particles suspended in the air and consisting of dust, smoke, mist, fumes, and compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and metals.

Pasture: A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by a fence or natural barrier.

Pedestal (Erosional): Plants or rocks that appear elevated as a result of soil loss by wind or water erosion (does not include plant or rock elevation as a result of non-erosional processes such as frost heaving).

Perennial Stream: A stream that flows continuously during all seasons of the year.

Perennial Vegetation: Plants that have a life cycle of 3 or more years.

Period of Use: The time of livestock grazing on a range area based on type of vegetation or stage of vegetative growth.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Permitted Use: The forage allocated by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease; expressed in Animal Unit Months.

Personal Income: The sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, proprietors' income, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments to persons, less personal contributions for social insurance.

Petroglyph: A figure, design, or indentation carved, abraded, or pecked into a rock.

PFC: See Proper Functioning Condition.

Physiographic Province: A region defined by a unified geologic history and a characteristic geologic structure and climate that differs from adjoining regions.

Pictograph: A figure or design painted onto a rock.

Plan: A document that contains a set of comprehensive, long range decisions concerning the use and management of Bureau and Park administered resources in a specific geographic area.

Planning Analysis: A process using appropriate resource data and NEPA analysis to provide a basis for decisions in areas not yet covered by a (Resource Management Plan (RMP)).

Planning Area: A geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

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

Plant Association: A kind of potential natural 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, denoting no particular ecological status.

Plant Mortality: The death of a plant or in a plant community the death of a number of plants in the community.

Plant Succession: The process of vegetational development whereby an area over time is occupied by different plant communities or later ecological stage.

Plant Vigor: Plant health; relates to the relative robustness of a plant in comparison to other individuals of the same species.

Population: Within a species, a distinct group of individuals that tend to mate only with members of the group. Because of generations of inbreeding, members of a population tend to have similar genetic characteristics.

Poisonous Plant: A plant containing or producing substances that cause sickness, death or a deviation from the normal state of health of animals.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Potential Natural Community (PNC): The biotic community that would become established if all successional sequences were completed without interference by human beings under the present environmental conditions. Natural disturbances are inherent in development. PNCs can include naturalized non-native species.

Potential Natural Vegetation (PNV): (See Potential Natural Community.)

Potential Wild and Scenic River: A flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

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

Prescribed Burning: The use of fire as a management tool under specified conditions for burning a predetermined area.

Prescribed Fire: The introduction of fire to an area under regulated conditions for specific management purposes.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration: A regulatory program based not on the absolute levels of pollution allowable in the atmosphere but on the amount by which a legally defined baseline condition will be allowed to deteriorate in a given area. Under this program, geographic areas are divided into three classes, each allowing different increases in nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, and sulfur dioxide concentrations.

Prime Farmland: Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses.

Project Area: The area of land upon which an operator conducts mining operations, including the area needed for building or maintaining of roads, transmission lines, pipelines, or other means of access.

Project Plan: A type of implementation plan (see Implementation Plan). A project plan typically addresses individual projects or several related projects. Examples of project plans include prescribed burn plans, trail plans, and recreation site plans.

Proper Function Condition (PFC): An element of the Fundamental of Rangeland Health for watersheds and therefore a required element of state or regional standards and guidelines under 43CFR4180.2.

Protest: Application for review of a land use plan decision by a higher administrative level.

Public Land: Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos. (See 43 CFR 4100.0-5).

-Q-

Qualitative: Observational type data that is recorded but not measured.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Quantitative: Collection of data by measuring vegetation or soil characteristics.

-R-

Range: Land supporting indigenous vegetation that either is grazed or has the potential to be grazed and managed as a natural ecosystem. Range includes grassland, grazable forestland, shrubland, and pastureland.

Range Condition: The present status of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for the site.

Range Development: A structure, excavation, treatment or development to rehabilitate, protect, or improve public lands to advance range betterment.

Rangeland: Uncultivated land that will provide the necessities for life for grazing and browsing animals.

Rangeland Health: The degree to which the integrity of the soil, vegetation, water, and air as well as the ecological processes of the rangeland ecosystem is balanced and sustained. Integrity is defined as maintenance of the structure and functional attributes characteristic of a particular locale, including normal variability.

Rangeland Improvements: Any activity or program, structural or nonstructural, on or relating to rangelands that is designed to improve forage production, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, and enhance habitat for livestock, wildlife. Rangeland improvements include land treatments (e.g., chaining, seeding, burning, chemical, etc.), stockwater developments, fences, corrals, and trails etc.

Rangeland Inventory: The systematic acquisition and analysis of resource information needed for planning and management of rangeland.

Range Management: A distinct discipline founded on ecological principles with the objective of sustainable use of rangelands and related resources for various purposes.

Range Readiness: Stage of plant development at which grazing may begin in an area/pasture/allotment without damage to vegetation or soil.

Range Site: Subdivisions of rangeland for management purposes having similar soils, climate and climax plant communities. Two or more identical range sites that are spatially separated should respond in a similar manner to the same kind of management.

Range Trend: (1) The change in range condition over time. (2) The direction of change in range condition. See also Trend.

Rangeland: Land used for grazing by livestock and big game animals on which vegetation is dominated by grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangelands also include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, many deserts, tundra, alpine communities, marshes, and wet meadows as well as oak and pinyon-juniper woodlands.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

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

Reach: A specified length of a stream or channel.

Reasonable Foreseeable Development Scenario: The prediction of the type and amount of oil and gas activity that would occur in a given area. The prediction is based on geologic factors, past history of drilling, projected demand for oil and gas, and industry interest.

Reclamation: The process of stabilizing disturbed areas to protect both disturbed and adjacent undisturbed areas from unnecessary degradation and returning the disturbed area to a condition approximate or equal to that which existed prior to disturbance, or to a stable and productive condition compatible with the land use plan.

Record of Decision (ROD): A document signed by a responsible official recording a decision that was preceded by the preparing of an environmental impact statement.

Recreation Experiences: Psychological outcomes realized either by recreation-tourism participants as a direct result of their onsite leisure engagements and recreation-tourism activity participation or by non-participating community residents as a result of their interaction with visitors and guests within their community and/or interaction with the BLM and other public and private recreation-tourism providers and their actions.

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

Recruitment: The successful entry of new individuals into the breeding population.

Rehabilitation: Effort undertaken to repair or improve damaged lands (such as from wildfire) unlikely to recover naturally to management approved conditions, utilizing native and or nonnative plant species to obtain a stable plant community that will protect the burned area from erosion and invasion by weeds.

Relict: A remnant or fragment of the vegetation of an area that remains from a former period when the vegetation was more widely distributed.

Residual Ground Cover: That portion of the total vegetative ground cover that remains after the livestock grazing season.

Resource Advisory Council (RAC): A council established by the Secretary of the Interior to provide advice or recommendations to BLM management. In some states, provincial advisory councils (PACs) are functional equivalents of RACs.

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

Rest: Leaving an area ungrazed for a specified time. Rest period. The length of time that a management unit is not grazed.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- Rest-rotation:** A grazing management scheme in which rest periods, usually for a full growing season, for individual grazing units are incorporated into a grazing rotation.
- Rest-rotation Grazing:** A grazing system typically involving four pastures in which each pasture periodically receives a year or more of nonuse.
- Restoration:** The process of returning ecological integrity to the area, and to obtain a plant community that is similar in appearance and function to the historic community.
- Revision:** The process of completely rewriting the land use plan due to changes in the planning area affecting major portions of the plan or the entire plan.
- Rhizome:** A horizontal underground stem, usually sending out roots and aboveground shoots from the nodes.
- Rill:** A channel formed in the soil surface by ephemeral running water, usually considered to be less than 1 foot deep. Rills generally are linear erosion features.
- Riparian:** Referring to or relating to areas adjacent to water or influenced by free water associated with streams or rivers on geologic surfaces occupying the lowest position on a watershed.
- Riparian Area:** A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.
- Riparian Ecosystems:** (1) Assemblages of plants, animals, and aquatic communities whose presence can be either directly attributed to factors that are water influenced or related. (2) Interacting system between aquatic and terrestrial situations identified by soil characteristics and be distinctive vegetation that requires or tolerates free or unbound water.
- Riparian Zone:** The banks and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps, and springs whose water provide soil moisture sufficiently in excess of that otherwise available locally so as to provide a more moist habitat than that of contiguous flood plains and uplands.
- River Suitability:** Referring to a river's suitability for Congress to designate is as a National Wild and Scenic River.
- Road:** As used herein, a transportation facility used primarily by vehicles having four or more wheels, documented as such by the owner, and maintained* for regular and continuous use. (*See “maintenance” definition.)
- Rock Art:** Petroglyphs or pictographs; rock incisions, carvings, or paintings placed on rocks.
- Rotation:** A technique performed while cementing, whereby casing is rotated in the hole in order to move the cement slurry uniformly around the casing to eliminate channeling and provide an effective cement bond on the casing and formation walls.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Rotation Grazing: A grazing scheme where animals are moved from one grazing unit in the same group of grazing units to another without regard to specific graze: rest periods or levels of plant defoliation.

Rotational Stocking: Unlike rotational grazing, rotational stocking uses grazing cycles with defined grazing and rest periods.

Route: Any motorized, non-motorized, or mechanized transportation corridor. Corridor may either be terrestrial or a waterway. “Roads”, “trails” and/or “ways” are considered routes.

Runoff: (1) The portion of precipitation or irrigation on an area which does not infiltrate, but instead is discharged by the area. (2) The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt.

-S-

Sacrifice Area: A portion of the range, irrespective of site, that is unavoidably overgrazed to obtain efficient overall use of the management area.

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

Saline Soils: Soils containing soluble salts in such quantities that interfere with the growth of most plants.

Salinity: A measure of the mineral substances dissolved in water.

Sample: A set of sampling units, as opposed to a single measurement.

Savanna: A grassland with scattered trees, whether as individuals or clumps; often a transitional type between true grassland and forest.

Scale: Refers to the geographic area and data resolution under examination in an assessment or planning effort.

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

Scoping: The process of identifying the range of issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an environmental impact statement or land-use planning document. It involves both internal and public viewpoints.

Section 7 Consultation: The requirement of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that all federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service if a proposed action might affect a federally listed species or its critical habitat.

Section 106 Compliance: The requirement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act that any project funded, licensed, permitted, or assisted by the Federal Government be reviewed for impacts to historic properties and that the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation be allowed to comment on a project.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Sediment: Soil, rock particles and organic or other debris carried from one place to another by wind, water or gravity.

Semiarid: Regions or climates where moisture is normally greater than under arid conditions but still definitely limits the production of vegetation. The upper limit of average annual precipitation in the cold, semiarid regions is as low as 15 inches (380 mm), whereas in warm tropical regions, it is as high as 45-50 inches (1,100-1,300mm).

Sensitive Species: All species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, live in unique habitats, or need special management. Sensitive species include threatened, endangered, and proposed species as classified by the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Seral: Pertaining to the successional stages of biotic communities.

Setting Character: The condition of any recreation system, objectively defined along a continuum ranging from primitive to urban in terms of variation of its component physical, social, and administrative attributes.

Shaft: A vertical or inclined opening to an underground mine.

Short-duration Grazing: Grazing management whereby short periods (days) of grazing and associated non-grazing are applied to range or pasture units. The lengths of grazing and non-grazing periods are based on the rate of plant growth.

Shrub: (1) A low, woody plant, usually with several stems, that may provide food and/or cover for animals. (2) A plant that has persistent, woody stems and a relatively low-growth habit, and that generally produces several basal shoots instead of single bole. It differs from a tree by its low stature (generally less than 5 meters, or 16 feet) and non-arborescent form.

Shrubland: Land on which the vegetation is dominated by shrubs. Non forested lands are classified as shrubland if shrubs provide more than 20 percent of the canopy cover, excluding trees. Lands not presently shrubland that were originally or could become shrubland through natural succession

Significance Criteria: Criteria identified for specific resources used to determine whether or not impacts would be significant.

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.

Slope: The degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal.

Soil: A dynamic, natural body of the surface of the earth in which plants grow.

Soil Aggregates: A group of primary soil particles that cohere to each other more strongly than to other surrounding particles.

Soil Compaction: Increasing the soil bulk density, and concomitantly decreasing the soil porosity, by the application of mechanical compression forces to the soil.

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Soil Horizon: A layer of soil or soil material roughly parallel to the land surface and differing from adjoining genetically related layers in physical, chemical, and biological properties or characteristics, such as color, structure, and texture.

Soil Productivity: The capacity of a soil to produce a plant or sequence of plants under a system of management.

Soil Series: A group of soils having genetic horizons (layers) that, except for texture of the surface layer, have similar characteristics and arrangement in profile.

Soil/Site Stability: The capacity of a site to limit redistribution and loss of soil resources (including nutrients and organic matter) by wind and water (one of the three attributes of rangeland health).

Soil Texture: The relative proportions of the three size groups of soil grains (sand, silt, and clay) in a mass of soil.

Solitude and Primitive/Unconfined Recreation: Visitors may have outstanding opportunities for solitude, or primitive and unconfined types of recreation when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others, where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Special Status Plant: A species that is either Federally listed as threatened or endangered, officially proposed (or a candidate) for Federal listing as threatened or endangered, State listed as threatened or endangered, or listed by a BLM State as sensitive.

Special Status Species: Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the ESA; State-listed species; and BLM State Director-design. (See BLM Manual 6840, Special Status Species Policy).

Species Composition: A term relating the relative abundance of one plant species to another using a common measurement; the proportion (percentage) of various species in relation to the total on a given area.

Species Diversity: The number, different kinds of, and relative abundances of species present in a given area.

Standard: A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., land health standards). It is to be expressed as a desired outcome (goal).

Steppe: Semiarid grassland characterized by grasses occurring in scattered bunches with other herbaceous vegetation and occasional woody species.

Stipulations: Requirements that are part of the terms of a mineral lease. Some stipulations are standard on all Federal leases. Other stipulations may be applied to the lease at the discretion of the surface management agency to protect valuable surface resources and uses.

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Stocking Rate: The number of specific kinds and classes of animals grazing a unit of land for a specified time period.

Streambank Erosion: The removal, transport, deposition, recutting and bedload movement of material by concentrated flows.

Structural Condition: The vegetative structure of a group of plants, vegetative structure is the form or appearance of a stand and can include plant size (height and diameter), arrangement of plants in the landscape in both the horizontal and vertical dimensions, stem density, percent cover, and other measures of biomass quantity.

Structure (Vegetation): The height and area occupied by different plants or life forms in a community.

Stubble: The basal portion of herbaceous plants remaining after the top portion has been harvested either artificially or by grazing animals.

Succession: The orderly process of community change; it is the sequence of communities that replace one another in a given area.

Successional Community: (See Seral Community.)

Successional Stage: (See Seral Stage.)

Succulent: Generally a type of cactus.

Suitability: The adaptability of an area to grazing by livestock or wildlife.

Surface Erosion: Erosion that removes materials from the surface of the land as distinguished from gully, or channel erosion.

Surface Runoff: See overland flow.

Suspended Sediment: The very fine soil particles that are maintained in suspension in water for a considerable time by the upward components of turbulent currents or because they are fine enough to form a colloidal suspension.

Sustainability: The ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Sustained Yield: Maintenance of an annual or regular periodic output of a renewable resource from public land consistent with the principles of multiple use.

-T-

Take: As defined by the Endangered Species Act, 'to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.'

Taxa: A group of organisms sharing common characteristics in varying degrees of distinction and constituting one of the categories in taxonomic classification, such as a phylum, order, family, genus, or species.

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Terrestrial Species: Ground-dwelling plants and animals.

Threatened Species: Any plant or animal species defined under the Endangered Species Act as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; listings are published in the Federal Register.

Threshold: A transition boundary that an ecosystem crosses resulting in a new stable state that is not easily reversed without significant inputs of resources.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): A water quality parameter defining the concentration of dissolved organic and inorganic chemicals in water. After suspended solids are filtered from water and water is evaporated, dissolved solids are the remaining residue.

Total Maximum Daily Load: An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, non-point, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

Total Preference: The total number of animal units of livestock grazing on public lands, apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee. The active preference and suspended preference are combined to make up the total grazing preference.

Traditional Cultural Property (TCP): A tangible place important to a community today and has been important to that community for at least 50 years. It has integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and has definable boundaries. Not all TCPs are eligible or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Traditional Lifeway Values: Values that are important for maintaining a group's traditional system of religious belief, cultural practice, or social interaction. A group's shared traditional lifeway values are abstract, nonmaterial, ascribed ideas that cannot be discovered except through discussions with members of the group. These values may or may not be closely associated with definite locations.

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

Trampling: The damage to plants or soil brought about by movement or congestion of animals.

Transition: A shift in plant composition that results in relatively stable states, as reflected in composition and structure. These shifts can occur by natural forces or as a result of human actions.

Treatment: Any management practice or procedure applied to a resource to achieve desired results.

Tree: A woody perennial, usually single-stemmed plant that has a definite crown shape and reaches a mature height of at least 4 meters. The distinction between woody plants known as trees and those called shrubs is gradual. Some plants, such as oak, may grow as either trees or shrubs.

Trend: The direction of change in ecological status or desired plant community observed over time. Trend is described as: "toward" or "upward"; "away from", "downward", or "declining" or as "not apparent" or "static."

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Turbidity: An interference to the passage of light through water due to insoluble particles of soil, organics, microorganisms and other materials.

-U-

Unallotted Lands: Public lands open to grazing which currently have no livestock grazing authorized.

Understory: Plants growing beneath the canopy of other plants; usually refer to grasses, forbs, and low shrubs under a tree or shrub canopy.

Ungulates: Hoofed animals, including ruminants but also horses, tapirs, elephants, and swine.

Uplands: Lands at higher elevations than alluvial plains or low stream terraces; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Use: The proportion of current years forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

Utilization (rangeland): The proportion of the current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Utilization is usually expressed as a percentage. Utilization is synonymous with use.

-V-

Vascular: Having vessels for circulating or transmitting plant or animals fluids.

Vascular Plants: Higher plants with vessels that conduct sap throughout the plant.

Vegetation: Plants in general, or the sum total of the plant life above and below ground in an area.

Vegetation Community: An assemblage of plant populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Vegetation Treatments: Land treatment projects undertaken to alter the existing vegetation communities, designed to improve the production of the species desired.

Vegetation Manipulation: Altering existing vegetation communities to ensure production of the species desired.

Vegetation Type: A plant community with distinguishable characteristics described by dominant vegetation present.

Viable: Capable of sustaining a healthy and reproducing population over a long period of time.

Vigor: Relates to the relative robustness of plant in comparison to other individuals of the same species. It is reflected primarily by the size of a plant and its parts in relation to its age and the environment in which it is growing.

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Visual Resources: The visible physical features of a landscape (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that constitute the scenery of an area.

-W-

Warm Season Plants: Plants whose major growth occurs during the spring, summer, or fall, and are usually dormant in winter.

Water Cycle (e.g., Hydrologic Cycle): The capture, storage, and redistribution of precipitation.

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

Water Table: The surface in a groundwater body where the water pressure is atmospheric. It is the level at which water stands in a well that penetrates the water body just far enough to hold standing water.

Watershed: (1) All lands enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide that lay upslope from a specific point on a stream. (2) A total area of land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point. (3) A major subdivision of a drainage basin.

Weather: The current state of the atmosphere with regards to wind, temperature, cloudiness, moisture, pressure, etc.

Weed: (1) A plant growing where unwanted. (2) A plant having a negative value within a given management system.

Wet Meadow: A meadow where the surface remains wet or moist throughout the summer, usually characterized by sedges and rushes.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to saturated soil conditions.

Wild Horses and Burros: All unbranded and unclaimed horses and burros using public lands as all or part of their habitat.

Wild, Scenic or Recreational River: Three classes that is traditionally referred to as a “Wild and Scenic River.” Designated river segments are classified as wild, scenic and/or recreational, the segments cannot overlap.

Wilderness Character: Key qualities of a designated wilderness or wilderness study area are listed in section 2(c) of the “Wilderness Act of 1964” and were used by BLM in its original wilderness inventory. Those qualities include size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude, and outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Other qualities may include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Wilderness Characteristics: Features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that may be considered in land use planning when BLM determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance) and need (trend, risk), and

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are practical to manage.” (BLM I.M. 2003-275). These features are not part of designated wilderness areas (WA) or wilderness study areas (WSA).

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): A designation made during the official BLM wilderness review period and through the land use planning process of a roadless area found to have wilderness character as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

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

Wildfire: A fire on wildlands not meeting management objectives and thus requiring a suppression response.

Wildland: An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland Fire: Any fire occurring on the wildlands, regardless of ignition source, damages, or benefits.

Wild River: Those rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watershed or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. They represent vestiges of primitive America.

Winter Range: Range that is grazed during winter.

Woodland: A forest community occupied primarily by noncommercial species such as juniper, mountain mahogany, or quaking aspen; all western juniper forest lands are classified as woodlands, since juniper is classified as a noncommercial species.

-X-

Xeric: Having very little moisture; tolerating or adapted to dry conditions.

-Y-

Yearlong Grazing: Continuous grazing for a calendar year.

-Z-