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15772 **6.0 GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS**

- 15773 **AAM&WS:** Ambient Air Monitoring and Weather Station
- 15774 **ACEC:** See Area of Critical Environmental Concern.
- 15775 **Acid gas:** gas mixture which contains significant amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S) and  
15776 carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
- 15777 **Acre-foot or acre-feet (acre-ft):** The volume of water that covers a one-acre area at a depth  
15778 of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).
- 15779 **Adaptive management:** A management approach that involves monitoring the outcomes of a  
15780 project or issue and, on the basis of the monitoring, improving the way the project is  
15781 managed.
- 15782 **Ad valorem:** Taxes levied according to assessed value.
- 15783 **Affected environment:** The resource values potentially affected by the Proposed Action and  
15784 alternatives analyzed in a NEPA document.
- 15785 **Air quality standards:** The absolute maximum level of a pollutant allowed to protect either  
15786 public health (primary) or welfare (secondary).
- 15787 **Allotment:** An area of land where one or more permittees graze their livestock. Generally  
15788 consists of public land but may include parcels of private or state lands. The number of  
15789 livestock and season of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of one  
15790 or several pastures.
- 15791 **Alluvium:** Clay, silt, sand, and gravel, or other rock material transported by flowing water  
15792 and deposited as sorted or semi-sorted sediments.
- 15793 **Ambient:** The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which  
15794 changes or impacts are measured.
- 15795 **Ambient air:** The portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the public has  
15796 general access (40 CFR 50).
- 15797 **Ambient concentration [air quality]:** The mass of a pollutant in a given volume of air,  
15798 typically measured as micrograms of pollutant per cubic meter of air.
- 15799 **Ancillary facilities:** Facilities often required in an oil and gas field other than the wells and  
15800 pipelines (e.g., compressor stations).
- 15801 **Animal unit month (AUM):** The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow/calf pair for  
15802 one month.
- 15803 **Anticline:** An area of rock deformation characterized by a downward slope to either side. In  
15804 an exposed anticline, the oldest rock layers are in the center and the rocks on either side dip or  
15805 slope away from the center of the structure. If covered by an impermeable layer of rock, an  
15806 anticline is a potential oil or gas reservoir.
- 15807 **APD:** See Application for Permit to Drill.
- 15808 **Application for Permit to Drill (APD):** The Department of Interior application permit form  
15809 to authorize oil and gas drilling activities on federal land or mineral estate.

- 15810 **Aquifer:** A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding  
15811 water.
- 15812 **Archaeological:** The scientific studies of ancient peoples and cultures by analysis of physical  
15813 remains (artifacts).
- 15814 **Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC):** An area on public lands designated for  
15815 special management to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife  
15816 resources; other natural systems or processes; or human life and safety.
- 15817 **Asphyxiant:** Gas or vapor that can cause unconsciousness or death by suffocation due to lack  
15818 of oxygen.
- 15819 **Atmospheric deposition:** A process by which air pollutants fall out of the atmosphere and  
15820 are deposited on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These pollutants are deposited via wet  
15821 deposition (precipitation) and dry deposition (gravitational settling of particles and gaseous  
15822 pollutants that adhere to soil, water, and vegetation).
- 15823 **Attenuate:** Decrease.
- 15824 **AUM:** See Animal unit month.
- 15825 **Badlands:** Steep or very steep, commonly non-stony barren lands dissected by many  
15826 intermittent drainage channels. Badlands are most common in semi-arid and arid regions  
15827 where streams are entrenched in soft geologic material. Runoff potential is very high, and  
15828 geologic erosion is active in such areas.
- 15829 **Berm:** A raised area with vertical or sloping sides.
- 15830 **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Structural, nonstructural, and managerial techniques  
15831 that are recognized to be the most effective and practical means to prevent or minimize  
15832 environmental impacts, yet are still compatible with the productive use of the resource to  
15833 which they are applied.
- 15834 **BLM:** U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
- 15835 **BMPs:** See Best Management Practices.
- 15836 **Brucellosis:** An infectious disease of domestic animals often resulting in spontaneous  
15837 abortion; transmittable to human beings.
- 15838 **Cairn:** A human-made pile of stones.
- 15839 **Calcareous:** Containing calcium carbonate.
- 15840 **Carbon Monoxide (CO):** Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas  
15841 produced by incomplete burning of carbon in fuels. A criteria pollutant.
- 15842 **Casing:** Steel pipe placed in an oil or gas well to prevent the hole from collapsing.
- 15843 **CEQ:** See Council on Environmental Quality.
- 15844 **COAs:** See Conditions of Approval
- 15845 **CoF:** See Consequence of failure.
- 15846 **Colluvium:** A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually located at the  
15847 foot of a slope or cliff and typically brought there by forces of gravity.

- 15848 **Condensate (gas condensate):** Hydrocarbons (light oil or liquid gas) contained in the natural  
15849 gas stream.
- 15850 **Conditions of Approval (COAs):** A set of restrictions, or conditions, included in the  
15851 approval of a federal permit, including NEPA documents.
- 15852 **Connected Actions:** Closely related actions that should be discussed in the same NEPA  
15853 document (40 CFR 1508.25 [a][I]).
- 15854 **Consequence of failure (CoF):** Defines what organism may be damaged by a failure or an  
15855 event.
- 15856 **Consumptive use [water]:** That part of water withdrawn that is evaporated, transpired,  
15857 incorporated into products or crops, consumed by humans or livestock, or otherwise removed  
15858 from the immediate water environment.
- 15859 **Corrosion:** A state of deterioration in metals caused by oxidation or chemical action.
- 15860 **Cretaceous:** The most recent period of the Mesozoic era, between 136 and 65 million years  
15861 ago.
- 15862 **Criteria pollutants:** Air pollutants for which the EPA has established state and national  
15863 ambient air quality standards. Criteria pollutants include Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) particulate matter (PM),  
15864 nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic  
15865 compounds (VOCs).
- 15866 **Critical elements of the human environment:** A list of resource concerns that must be  
15867 addressed in every NEPA document.
- 15868 **Crucial range:** Any particular seasonal range or habitat component that has been documented  
15869 as the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain itself at a certain level over the  
15870 long-term.
- 15871 **Cryogenic:** The use of extreme cold (within a few degrees of absolute zero).
- 15872 **Cultural resources:** The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds,  
15873 petroglyphs, etc.) and the conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or  
15874 prehistoric events, such as a sacred area of native peoples, etc.) of an area of prehistoric or  
15875 historic occupation.
- 15876 **Cumulative impact:** The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact  
15877 of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions,  
15878 regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions.  
15879 Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions  
15880 taken place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).
- 15881 **Data recovery [archaeological]:** Excavation of the cultural resource, followed by the  
15882 analysis and dissemination of archaeological data, in accordance with the National Historic  
15883 Preservation Act.
- 15884 **Decibel:** A unit of measurement of noise intensity based on the energy of the sound waves.  
15885 Changes of 5 decibels or more are normally discernible to the human ear.
- 15886 **Deciview:** The unit of measurement of haze developed to uniformly describe levels of  
15887 monitored and modeled visibility impairment.

- 15888 **Depletion:** Losses of water to a stream or river caused by well use, evaporation, or otherwise.
- 15889 **Directionally drill:** The intentional deviation of a wellbore from vertical to reach subsurface  
15890 areas off to one side from the surface drilling site.
- 15891 **Discharge [water]:** The volume of water flowing past a point per unit time, commonly  
15892 expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs), gallons per minute (gpm), or million gallons per day  
15893 (mgd).
- 15894 **Dispersion:** The spreading out of pollutants. Generally used to show the extent to which an  
15895 air pollutant will spread from a particular point.
- 15896 **Displacement (as applied to wildlife):** Forced shifts in the patterns of wildlife use, either in  
15897 location or timing of use.
- 15898 **Disposal well:** A well into which by-products (i.e., produced water, H<sub>2</sub>S, and CO<sub>2</sub>) from other  
15899 wells is injected into an underground formation for disposal.
- 15900 **Drainage:** Any channel through which water flows at least part time.
- 15901 **Drill rig:** The mast, draw works, and attendant surface equipment of a drilling unit.
- 15902 **Drilling fluid:** Fluid used to lubricate and cool the drill bit, to assist in lifting cuttings from  
15903 the borehole, and to control pressures in the borehole.
- 15904 **Drought:** Prolonged dry weather (precipitation less than 75% of average annual amount).
- 15905 **EA:** See Environmental Assessment.
- 15906 **Ecosystem:** An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment  
15907 (e.g., forest, marsh, and stream ecosystems).
- 15908 **EIS:** See Environmental Impact Statement.
- 15909 **Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF):** Field of force surrounding a permanent magnet or a  
15910 moving charged particle.
- 15911 **Electrical generation:** The process of creating electricity from other forms of energy, such as  
15912 fossil fuels.
- 15913 **Eligible sites:** Meeting the conditions of the National Register of Historic Places.
- 15914 **Emergent vegetation:** Erect, rooted, herbaceous plants that project out of or emerge from the  
15915 water.
- 15916 **EMF:** See electrical and magnetic field.
- 15917 **Emission(s):** Air pollution discharged into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit  
15918 time.
- 15919 **Endangered species:** A species that is in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely  
15920 if the causal factors continue. Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines  
15921 "endangered species" as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a  
15922 significant portion of its range.
- 15923 **Environment:** The totality of surrounding conditions in an area. Includes natural, human-  
15924 made, physical, and social factors.

- 15925 **Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** An analysis of alternative actions and their  
15926 predictable environmental impacts, including physical, biological, economic, and social  
15927 consequences and their interactions; short- and long-term impacts; and direct, indirect, and  
15928 cumulative impacts.
- 15929 **Environmental Assessment (EA):** A public document that analyzes whether a proposed  
15930 action would require preparation of an environmental impact statement or a finding of no  
15931 significant impact.
- 15932 **Eocene:** The second epoch of the Cenozoic era; the start of the Eocene is marked by the  
15933 emergence of the first modern mammals.
- 15934 **Eolian:** Refers to landforms shaped by wind or sediments transported and deposited by wind.
- 15935 **Ephemeral drainage:** A drainage area or a stream that has no base flow. Water flows for a  
15936 short time each year but only in direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events.
- 15937 **Epidemiological:** Of or relating to epidemiology; the study of the patterns, causes, and  
15938 control of disease in groups of people.
- 15939 **Erosion:** The removal, detachment, and entrainment of earth materials by weathering,  
15940 dissolution, abrasion, and corrosion, later to be transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or  
15941 glaciers.
- 15942 **Fault [geological]:** A fracture in bedrock along which there has been vertical and/or  
15943 horizontal movement caused by differential forces in the earth's crust.
- 15944 **Federal action:** Proposed actions that partially or completely cross or are located on BLM-  
15945 administered lands, or that require a federal permit.
- 15946 **Floodplain:** The portion of a river valley, adjacent to the channel, that is built of recently  
15947 deposited sediments and is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood  
15948 stages.
- 15949 **Fluvial:** Of or pertaining to rivers.
- 15950 **Forage:** Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.
- 15951 **Forb:** A broad-leafed flowering herb other than grass.
- 15952 **Formation:** A body of earth material with distinctive and characteristic physical properties. A  
15953 formation may be a made of rock or of unconsolidated material such as sand, gravel, and clay  
15954 and can be mapped on the earth's surface or traced in the subsurface.
- 15955 **Fossiliferous:** Containing fossils.
- 15956 **Fugitive dust:** Airborne particles emitted from any source other than a controllable stack or  
15957 vent.
- 15958 **Gathering pipelines:** Pipelines within a field that transport gas or oil from the well to a  
15959 central production facility or to the point of sale.
- 15960 **Geologic unit:** A geological unit is a volume of rock or ice of identifiable origin and age  
15961 range that is defined by the distinctive and dominant, easily mapped and recognizable features  
15962 that characterize it.

- 15963 **Glacial till:** Material directly deposited from glacial ice.
- 15964 **Glaciated:** Formed by glacial forces.
- 15965 **Geomorphology:** The characteristics, configuration, and evolution of rocks and land forms
- 15966 **GHG:** See greenhouse gas.
- 15967 **Greenhouse gas (GHG):** Any of a variety of gases known to be transparent to incoming solar  
15968 radiation but capable of absorbing reflected infrared radiation from the earth's surface. The  
15969 principal greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and chlorofluorocarbons,  
15970 among others.
- 15971 **Groundwater:** Water contained in the pore spaces of consolidated and unconsolidated  
15972 material.
- 15973 **H<sub>2</sub>S:** Hydrogen sulfide gas
- 15974 **Habitat:** A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of  
15975 species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are  
15976 considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.
- 15977 **Hazardous substance:** A broad term that includes all substances that can be harmful to  
15978 people or the environment; toxic substances, hazardous materials, and other similar terms are  
15979 subsets of hazardous substances.
- 15980 **Headwaters:** The place from which the water in the river or stream originates.
- 15981 **Helium:** A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.
- 15982 **High neutral wire:** The conductor of a polyphase circuit or a single-phase three-wire circuit  
15983 that is intended to have a ground potential. This wire carries current to a ground source.
- 15984 **Historic properties:** Those properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National  
15985 Register of Historic Places or properties designated as historic under a statute of the  
15986 appropriate state or local government body.
- 15987 **HLF:** Helium Liquefaction Facility
- 15988 **Hydrocarbon:** A compound formed from carbon and hydrogen (e.g., oil and gas).
- 15989 **Hydrology:** A science that focuses on the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface  
15990 and subsurface water. Can also refer to the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface  
15991 and subsurface water.
- 15992 **Hydrophilic vegetation:** Vegetation that grows in water or on a substrate that is at least  
15993 periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.
- 15994 **Hydrostatic testing:** Testing of the integrity of a newly placed but uncovered pipeline for  
15995 leaks. The pipeline is filled with water and pressurized to operating pressures, and the pipeline  
15996 is visually inspected.
- 15997 **Hydrothermal brecciation:** The formation of rock composed of angular fragments of  
15998 minerals or rocks in a matrix by hydrothermal forces.
- 15999 **IDT:** See Interdisciplinary team.

- 16000 **Impacts, long-term [NEPA]:** For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, long-term impacts last  
16001 for the life of the project or beyond.
- 16002 **Impacts, short-term [NEPA]:** For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, short-term impacts are  
16003 generally defined as those that would last for five years or less.
- 16004 **Impoundment [water]:** The accumulation of any form of water in a reservoir or other  
16005 storage area.
- 16006 **Infiltration [water]:** The movement of water or some other liquid into the soil or rock  
16007 through pores or other openings.
- 16008 **Infrastructure:** The basic framework or underlying foundation of a community, including  
16009 road networks, electric and gas distribution, water and sanitation services, and facilities.
- 16010 **Injection well:** A well that is used to inject by-products from drilling operations (i.e.,  
16011 produced water or acid gas) in order to maintain pressure or to bring a field back under  
16012 pressure.
- 16013 **Intermittent stream:** A stream or reach of a stream that is below the local water table for at  
16014 least some part of the year and obtains its flow from both surface runoff and groundwater  
16015 discharge.
- 16016 **Invasive species:** A plant or animal species that has moved into an area and reproduced so  
16017 aggressively that it has replaced some of the original (native) species.
- 16018 **Kernel Density Analysis:** A method used for estimating the probability density function of a  
16019 random variable. A kernel density analysis can be used to extrapolate the data to the entire  
16020 population based on data from a sample of a population.
- 16021 **Key Observation Points (KOP):** The most critical viewpoints or typical views encountered  
16022 in representative landscapes along the proposed route.
- 16023 **KOP:** See Key Observation Points.
- 16024 **Lacustrine:** Associated with a lake.
- 16025 **Landslide:** A perceptible downhill sliding or falling of a mass of soil and rock lubricated by  
16026 moisture or snow.
- 16027 **Lek:** A traditional courtship display area attended by male greater sage-grouse in or adjacent  
16028 to sagebrush-dominated habitat.
- 16029 **Life of the project (LOP):** Begins with the first disturbance authorized under the  
16030 Record of Decision for a project and ends when all wells are plugged and abandoned and all  
16031 surface disturbance (each disturbed site) meets the reclamation performance objectives.
- 16032 **Lithic scatter:** A surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris that consists entirely of lithic  
16033 (i.e., stone) tools and chipped stone debris. This common prehistoric site type contrasts with a  
16034 cultural material scatter (which contains other or additional artifact types such as pottery or  
16035 bone artifacts), with a camp (which contains habitation features, such as hearths, storage  
16036 features, or occupation features), or with other site types that contain different artifacts or  
16037 features.
- 16038 **Lithology:** The description of rock composition and texture.

- 16039 **Loam:** A mixture of sand, silt, and clay containing between 7% and 27% clay, 28% to 50%  
16040 silt, and less than 50% sand.
- 16041 **LOP:** See Life of the project.
- 16042 **M&HRF:** Methane and Helium Recovery Facility
- 16043 **Mesozoic:** The middle one of three geologic eras. Following the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic  
16044 extended roughly 180 million years: from 251 million years ago (Ma) to when the Cenozoic  
16045 era began 65 Ma.
- 16046 **Mineralized:** An organic substance which has become impregnated by inorganic substances.
- 16047 **Migration corridor:** A tract of land that forms a passageway and facilitates the seasonal  
16048 migration of animals.
- 16049 **Mitigation measures:** Actions taken to reduce or minimize potential impacts to the  
16050 environment.
- 16051 **Mobile emission source:** An emission source that moves, such as a car.
- 16052 **Model:** A mathematical or physical representation of an observable situation. In air pollution  
16053 control, models afford the ability to predict pollutant distribution or dispersion from identified  
16054 sources for specified weather conditions.
- 16055 **Mudstone:** A sedimentary rock whose grain size is smaller in size than the coarser sandstone  
16056 or siltstone.
- 16057 **NAAQS:** See National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- 16058 **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS):** The allowable concentrations of air  
16059 pollutants specified by the federal government. The air quality standards are divided into  
16060 primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety  
16061 and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality  
16062 criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare  
16063 from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants).
- 16064 **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA):** The federal law established in 1969,  
16065 which went into effect on January 1, 1970, that established a national policy for the  
16066 environment and requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement for  
16067 every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
- 16068 **National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):**
- 16069 **National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):** The official list, established by the Historic  
16070 Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The  
16071 National Register lists archaeological, historic, and architectural properties nominated for  
16072 their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the  
16073 National Register Staff.
- 16074 **NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.
- 16075 **NHPA:** National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.
- 16076 **No Action Alternative:** The management direction, activities, outputs, and effects that are  
16077 likely to exist in the future if the current plan were to continue unchanged.

- 16078 **No Surface Occupancy (NSO):** A stipulation in a lease that disallows any surface  
16079 disturbance in the lease area at any time. Natural gas or oil from an NSO area, for instance,  
16080 would have to be recovered by directional drilling.
- 16081 **Noxious weeds:** Officially designated (State of Wyoming-designated, Sublette County-  
16082 declared) undesirable or invading weedy species generally introduced into an area by humans.
- 16083 **NO<sub>x</sub>:** A group of gases that cause acid rain and other environmental problems, such as smog  
16084 and eutrophication of coastal waters. A criteria pollutant.
- 16085 **NRHP:** See National Register of Historic Places.
- 16086 **NSO:** See No Surface Occupancy.
- 16087 **OHV:** Off-highway vehicle
- 16088 **Obligate species:** Refers to a response to particular condition or way of life for which there is  
16089 no alternative; i.e., a plant or animal that only lives in a prairie ecosystem.
- 16090 **Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>):** A molecule containing three oxygen atoms produced by passage of an electrical  
16091 spark through air or oxygen (O<sub>2</sub>). A criteria pollutant.
- 16092 **Paleontology:** The science that focuses on the history and evolution of life on earth.
- 16093 **Paleozoic:** The earliest of three geologic eras, occurring between 570 to 240 million years  
16094 ago.
- 16095 **Palustrine:** Nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent plants, or  
16096 emergent mosses or lichens, as well as small, shallow open water ponds or potholes.
- 16097 **Particulate matter:** A particle of soil or liquid matter (e.g., soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and  
16098 mist).
- 16099 **Parturition:** To give birth, birthing.
- 16100 **Permeability:** The extent that a porous rock, sediment, or soil is able to transmit a liquid.
- 16101 **PFYC:** See Potential Fossil Yield Classification.
- 16102 **Physiographic region:** A region having a pattern of relief features or landforms that differs  
16103 significantly from adjacent regions.
- 16104 **PFO:** BLM Pinedale Field Office
- 16105 **PM<sub>2.5</sub>:** Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less.
- 16106 **PM<sub>10</sub>:** Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less.
- 16107 **PPM:** Parts per million.
- 16108 **Preferred Alternative:** The alternative identified in the EA as the action favored by the lead  
16109 agency.
- 16110 **Produced water [gas development]:** Water brought to the surface through the borehole.
- 16111 **Production [gas development]:** Phase of commercial operation of an oil field.
- 16112 **Proposed Action:** The alternative identified in the EIS as the action favored by the project  
16113 proponent.

- 16114 **PSD:** See Prevention of significant deterioration.
- 16115 **Public lands:** Lands or interests in lands owned by the United States and in this case  
16116 administered by the Secretary of Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without  
16117 regard to how the United States acquired ownership.
- 16118 **Pulling and tensioning pad:** The area where equipment is staged to tighten electrical  
16119 transmission lines into their final operational position.
- 16120 **Quaternary:** The geologic period beginning two to three million years ago and extending to  
16121 the present; represented by local accumulations of glacial and post-glacial deposits.
- 16122 **RBPA:** Rands Butte Project Area.
- 16123 **Range, winter:** An area where migratory (and sometimes non-migratory) animals congregate  
16124 during the winter season.
- 16125 **Range, year-long:** Locations where specific species are able to reside in the same area  
16126 throughout the year.
- 16127 **Rangeland:** Land on which the natural vegetation is made up primarily of native grasses,  
16128 forbs, or shrubs valuable for forage and suitable for grazing livestock.
- 16129 **Raptor:** A group of carnivorous birds consisting of hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, vultures,  
16130 and owls.
- 16131 **Reactivity [soil]:** Measure of the pH of a soil.
- 16132 **Reclamation:** Rehabilitation of a disturbed area to make it acceptable for designated uses.  
16133 This normally involves regrading, replacement of topsoil, revegetation, and other work  
16134 necessary to restore it for use.
- 16135 **Record of Decision (ROD):** A decision document for an EIS or Supplemental EIS that  
16136 publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision regarding the actions  
16137 proposed in the EIS and their implementation.
- 16138 **Reasonable Alternatives:** In determining the scope of alternatives to be considered, the  
16139 emphasis is on what is "reasonable" rather than on whether the applicant likes or is itself  
16140 capable of carrying out a particular alternative (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). –An alternative  
16141 that is outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency must still be analyzed in the EIS if it is  
16142 reasonable."
- 16143 **Re-complete [gas development]:** Redrill an oil well to a new producing zone (new depth)  
16144 when the current zone is.
- 16145 **Recreation resources:** In the project area, these resources include undeveloped recreation  
16146 opportunities such as off-road vehicle use, boating, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing,  
16147 camping, and hiking.
- 16148 **Recharge, groundwater:** A hydrologic process where water moves downward from surface  
16149 water to groundwater.
- 16150 **Reserve pit:** An excavated pit that may be lined with plastic that holds drill cuttings and  
16151 waste mud.

- 16152 **Reserves/recoverable reserves:** Areas of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can  
16153 be extracted profitably using existing technology and under present economic conditions.
- 16154 **Reservoir [gas or hydrocarbon]:** The “pool” of oil or gas that is being tapped.
- 16155 **Residual impacts:** Impacts to a protected resource or resource value remaining after all  
16156 mitigation and reclamation are taken into account.
- 16157 **Residuum:** Materials resulting from the disintegration, decomposition, or weathering of  
16158 bedrock.
- 16159 **Resource Management Plan (RMP):** A BLM planning document, prepared in accordance  
16160 with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that presents systematic  
16161 guidelines for making resource management decisions for a resource area. RMPs are issues-  
16162 oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.
- 16163 **Resource roads:** Spur roads that provide point access, as to a well site, and connect to local  
16164 or collector roads.
- 16165 **Revegetation:** The re-establishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On  
16166 disturbed sites, human assistance will speed natural processes by seedbed preparation,  
16167 reseeded, and mulching.
- 16168 **Richter (magnitude) scale:** A logarithmic scale used to measure earthquake magnitude  
16169 (intensity). Each unit increase in the Richter scale represents a 10-fold increase in the  
16170 amplitude recorded on the seismogram and a 30-fold increase in energy released by the  
16171 earthquake. (See also Modified Mercalli Scale of Intensity.)
- 16172 **Rig:** A collective term to describe the equipment needed when drilling a well.
- 16173 **Right-of-way (ROW):** The legal right for use, occupancy, or access across land or water  
16174 areas for a specified purpose or purposes.
- 16175 **Riparian:** Land areas directly influenced by water that usually have visible vegetative or  
16176 physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streamsides and lake borders are typical  
16177 riparian areas.
- 16178 **ROD:** See Record of Decision.
- 16179 **Roosting:** Refers to avian slumber; a bird will typically use the same roost for an extended  
16180 period of time.
- 16181 **ROW:** See Right-of-way.
- 16182 **Runoff:** That part of precipitation that appears in surface streams. Precipitation that is not  
16183 retained on the site where it falls and is not absorbed by the soil.
- 16184 **SWPPP:** Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
- 16185 **Sagebrush obligates:** Species that depend on sagebrush to survive (e.g., pygmy rabbit, sage  
16186 sparrow, sage-grouse).
- 16187 **Salinity:** A measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a given amount of water or  
16188 body of water. Can also refer to the salt content of soil.

- 16189 **Sandstone:** A sedimentary rock whose grain size is larger in size than the finer siltstone or  
16190 mudstone.
- 16191 **Scoping [NEPA]:** An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be  
16192 addressed in an EIS or EA and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed  
16193 action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of  
16194 agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, and written  
16195 comments in response to news releases, direct mailings, and articles about the proposed action  
16196 and scoping meetings.
- 16197 **Sediment:** Soil or mineral transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers, and  
16198 deposited in streams or other bodies of water or on land.
- 16199 **Sedimentation:** The process that deposits soils, debris, and other materials either on the  
16200 ground surfaces or in bodies of water or watercourses.
- 16201 **Seismic:** Pertaining to an earthquake or earth vibration, including those that are artificially  
16202 induced.
- 16203 **Sensitive soils:** Soils having physical and/or chemical characteristics that could inhibit or limit  
16204 successful stabilization and revegetation in the reclamation of sites disturbed by construction and the  
16205 operation of oil and gas facilities.
- 16206 **Sensitive Wildlife Species:** Those species that could become endangered or extirpated in the state.  
16207 Also called BLM Sensitive Species.
- 16208 **Seronegative:** is the number of individuals in a population who test negative for a specific  
16209 disease (i.e. brucellosis) based on serology (blood serum) specimens.
- 16210 **Seropositive:** is the number of individuals in a population who test positive for a specific  
16211 disease (i.e. brucellosis) based on serology (blood serum) specimens.
- 16212 **Severance tax:** A tax imposed by a state on the extraction of natural resources, such as oil,  
16213 coal, or gas, that will be used in other states.
- 16214 **Shale:** A laminated sediment in which the constituent particles are predominantly of the clay  
16215 grade.
- 16216 **Significant impact:** A meaningful criteria or standard to which an action may impact the  
16217 environment. The impact may be beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, or cumulative and may  
16218 be short-term or long-term.
- 16219 **Silt:** Any earthy material composed of fine particles, smaller than sand but larger than clay,  
16220 suspended in or deposited by water.
- 16221 **Siltstone:** A sedimentary rock whose grain size is intermediate in size, falling between the  
16222 coarser sandstone and finer mudstone.
- 16223 **Site-specific analysis [NEPA]:** Environmental assessments designed to address issues related  
16224 to small projects, such as individual wells, generally under the guidance of a more  
16225 comprehensive NEPA document.
- 16226 **SPCC Plan:** Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan
- 16227 **SO<sub>2</sub>:** See sulfur dioxide.

- 16228 **Social structure:** Relationships or bonds between groups of individuals (e.g., societies).
- 16229 **Socioeconomics:** The study of impacts on a region's current and projected population and  
16230 relative demographic characteristics (housing, economy, government, etc.).
- 16231 **Sodic soil:** Soil with a high concentration of sodium.
- 16232 **Soil productivity:** The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop, such as fiber and forage,  
16233 under defined levels of management. It is generally dependent on available soil moisture,  
16234 nutrients, and length of growing season.
- 16235 **Soil Stability:** The susceptibility of a soil to erosion.
- 16236 **Sour gas:** Any gas containing significant amounts of H<sub>2</sub>S gas.
- 16237 **Stationary Emission Source:** An emission source that does not move, such as a power plant.
- 16238 **Stipulation:** A legal requirement that is part of the terms of a mineral lease. Some stipulations  
16239 are standard on all federal leases. Other stipulations may be applied to the lease at the  
16240 discretion of the surface management agency to protect valuable surface resources.  
16241 Stipulations are supported by the NEPA process; without NEPA support, a stipulation cannot  
16242 be added to the lease.
- 16243 **Substrate:** Material consisting of silts, sands, gravels, boulders, and/or woody debris found  
16244 on the bottom of a stream channel.
- 16245 **Sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>):** One of a group of gases that causes acid rain and other environmental  
16246 problems. A criteria pollutant.
- 16247 **Surface water:** Water that sits or flows on the surface of the earth, including oceans, rivers,  
16248 streams, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs constructed by humans.
- 16249 **TCP:** See traditional cultural property.
- 16250 **TDS:** See total dissolved solids.
- 16251 **Tectonic:** Pertaining to the structure or movement of the earth's crust.
- 16252 **Terrace [landform]:** Broadly horizontal deposits of gravels laid down by river systems at  
16253 different times in the past.
- 16254 **Tertiary:** The older of the two geologic periods comprising the Cenozoic era; the system of  
16255 strata deposited during that period.
- 16256 **Threatened species:** Any species (plant or animal) that is likely to become an endangered  
16257 species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.  
16258 Threatened species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the 1973  
16259 Endangered Species Act.
- 16260 **Topsoil:** The uppermost layers of naturally occurring soils suitable for use as a plant growth  
16261 medium.
- 16262 **Total dissolved solids (TDS):** Total amount of dissolved material, organic or inorganic,  
16263 contained in a sample of water.
- 16264 **Traditional cultural property (TCP) [archaeological]:** A cultural resource known to be  
16265 perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural

- 16266 identity, heritage, or well-being of the group. In the planning area, this mainly pertains to  
16267 cultural sites that are sensitive to Native American tribes.
- 16268 **Tribal consultation:** Conference between or within a Native American tribe and another  
16269 party to consider a particular question.
- 16270 **Trona:** An evaporite mineral that is used as a source of sodium carbonate.
- 16271 **Turbidity:** A measurement of the total suspended solids in water.
- 16272 **Two-track:** A road that has not been constructed or maintained but that has been created by  
16273 repeated use.
- 16274 **Understory:** A layer of vegetation underlying a layer of taller vegetation, such as brush and  
16275 grass under trees.
- 16276 **USFS:** United States Forest Service
- 16277 **USFWS:** United States Fish and Wildlife Service
- 16278 **USGS:** United States Geological Survey
- 16279 **Viewshed:** The areas seen from any given point.
- 16280 **Visibility:** The visual quality of the view or scene in daylight, with respect to color, rendition,  
16281 and contrast definition.
- 16282 **Visual resource:** The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetation  
16283 patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit  
16284 may have for viewers.
- 16285 **Visual Resource Management (VRM):** A system of visual management used by the BLM.  
16286 The program has a dual purpose: 1) to manage the quality of the visual environment, and 2) to  
16287 reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all BLM  
16288 resource programs.
- 16289 **VOC:** See volatile organic compounds.
- 16290 **Volatile organic compounds:** Organic (carbon-containing) compounds that evaporate readily  
16291 at room temperature. These compounds are used as solvents, degreasers, paints, thinners, and  
16292 fuels. They are defined by the Clean Air Act as chemicals that participate in forming ozone  
16293 (O<sub>3</sub>), a criteria pollutant.
- 16294 **VRM:** See Visual Resource Management.
- 16295 **Water quality:** Refers to a set of chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that  
16296 describe the condition of a river, stream, or lake. The quality of water determines what  
16297 beneficial uses it can support.
- 16298 **Watershed:** The total land area that drains to a given watercourse or body of water.
- 16299 **Waters of the U.S.:** A jurisdictional term from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act referring  
16300 to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats,  
16301 sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds  
16302 with defined bed and bank.

- 16303 **Well or wellbore:** The hole drilled from the surface to the gas-bearing formation, several of  
16304 which may be developed from a single well pad.
- 16305 **Well completion:** Involves the perforation or stimulation of productive zones.
- 16306 **Well pad:** Relatively flat work area (surface location) that is used for drilling a well or wells  
16307 and for producing from the well once it is completed.
- 16308 **Wetlands:** Areas that are inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency  
16309 sufficient to support—and under normal circumstances do or would support—a prevalence of  
16310 vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for  
16311 growth and reproduction.
- 16312 **WGFD:** Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
- 16313 **WDEQ:** Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.