

7.0 GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS

AAM&WS: Ambient Air Monitoring and Weather Station

ACEC: See Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Acid gas: gas mixture which contains significant amounts of hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Acre-foot or acre-feet (acre-ft): The volume of water that covers a one-acre area at a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

Adaptive management: A management approach that involves monitoring the outcomes of a project or issue and, on the basis of the monitoring, improving the way the project is managed.

Ad valorem: Taxes levied according to assessed value.

Affected environment: The resource values potentially affected by the Proposed Action and alternatives analyzed in a NEPA document.

Air quality standards: The absolute maximum level of a pollutant allowed to protect either public health (primary) or welfare (secondary).

Allotment: An area of land where one or more permittees graze their livestock. Generally consists of public land but may include parcels of private or state lands. The number of livestock and season of use are stipulated for each allotment. An allotment may consist of one or several pastures.

Alluvium: Clay, silt, sand, and gravel, or other rock material transported by flowing water and deposited as sorted or semi-sorted sediments.

Ambient: The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which changes or impacts are measured.

Ambient air: The portion of the atmosphere, external to buildings, to which the public has general access (40 CFR 50).

Ambient concentration [air quality]: The mass of a pollutant in a given volume of air, typically measured as micrograms of pollutant per cubic meter of air.

Ancillary facilities: Facilities often required in an oil and gas field other than the wells and pipelines (e.g., compressor stations).

Animal unit month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow/calf pair for one month.

Anticline: An area of rock deformation characterized by a downward slope to either side. In an exposed anticline, the oldest rock layers are in the center and the rocks on either side dip or slope away from the center of the structure. If covered by an impermeable layer of rock, an anticline is a potential oil or gas reservoir.

APD: See Application for Permit to Drill.

Application for Permit to Drill (APD): The Department of Interior application permit form to authorize oil and gas drilling activities on federal land or mineral estate.

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

Archaeological: The scientific studies of ancient peoples and cultures by analysis of physical remains (artifacts).

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area on public lands designated for special management to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; other natural systems or processes; or human life and safety.

Asphyxiant: Gas or vapor that can cause unconsciousness or death by suffocation due to lack of oxygen.

Atmospheric deposition: A process by which air pollutants fall out of the atmosphere and are deposited on terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. These pollutants are deposited via wet deposition (precipitation) and dry deposition (gravitational settling of particles and gaseous pollutants that adhere to soil, water, and vegetation).

Attenuate: Decrease.

AUM: See Animal unit month.

Badlands: Steep or very steep, commonly non-stony barren lands dissected by many intermittent drainage channels. Badlands are most common in semi-arid and arid regions where streams are entrenched in soft geologic material. Runoff potential is very high, and geologic erosion is active in such areas.

Berm: A raised area with vertical or sloping sides.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Structural, nonstructural, and managerial techniques that are recognized to be the most effective and practical means to prevent or minimize environmental impacts, yet are still compatible with the productive use of the resource to which they are applied.

BLM: U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

BMPs: See Best Management Practices.

Brucellosis: An infectious disease of domestic animals often resulting in spontaneous abortion; transmittable to human beings.

Cairn: A human-made pile of stones.

Calcareous: Containing calcium carbonate.

Carbon Monoxide (CO): Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas produced by incomplete burning of carbon in fuels. A criteria pollutant.

Casing: Steel pipe placed in an oil or gas well to prevent the hole from collapsing.

CEQ: See Council on Environmental Quality.

CIAA: See Cumulative Impact Analysis Area.

COAs: See Conditions of Approval

CoF: See Consequence of failure.

Colluvium: A general term applied to loose and incoherent deposits, usually located at the foot of a slope or cliff and typically brought there by forces of gravity.

Condensate (gas condensate): Hydrocarbons (light oil or liquid gas) contained in the natural gas stream.

Conditions of Approval (COAs): A set of restrictions, or conditions, included in the approval of a federal permit, including NEPA documents.

Connected Actions: Closely related actions that should be discussed in the same NEPA document (40 CFR 1508.25 [a][I]).

Consequence of failure (CoF): Defines what organism may be damaged by a failure or an event.

Consumptive use [water]: That part of water withdrawn that is evaporated, transpired, incorporated into products or crops, consumed by humans or livestock, or otherwise removed from the immediate water environment.

Corrosion: A state of deterioration in metals caused by oxidation or chemical action.

Cretaceous: The most recent period of the Mesozoic era, between 136 and 65 million years ago.

Criteria pollutants: Air pollutants for which the EPA has established state and national ambient air quality standards. Criteria pollutants include Ozone (O₃) particulate matter (PM), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

Critical elements of the human environment: A list of resource concerns that must be addressed in every NEPA document.

Crucial range: Any particular seasonal range or habitat component that has been documented as the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain itself at a certain level over the long-term.

Cryogenic: The use of extreme cold (within a few degrees of absolute zero).

Cultural resources: The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) and the conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, such as a sacred area of native peoples, etc.) of an area of prehistoric or historic occupation.

Cumulative impact: The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and 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 taken place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

Cumulative Impact Analysis Area (CIAA): Area of potential direct and indirect effects from all reasonably foreseeable actions, as identified for specific resources in NEPA analysis.

Data recovery [archaeological]: Excavation of the cultural resource, followed by the analysis and dissemination of archaeological data, in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act.

Decibel: A unit of measurement of noise intensity based on the energy of the sound waves. Changes of 5 decibels or more are normally discernible to the human ear.

Deciview: The unit of measurement of haze developed to uniformly describe levels of monitored and modeled visibility impairment.

Depletion: Losses of water to a stream or river caused by well use, evaporation, or otherwise.

Directionally drill: The intentional deviation of a wellbore from vertical to reach subsurface areas off to one side from the surface drilling site.

Discharge [water]: The volume of water flowing past a point per unit time, commonly expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs), gallons per minute (gpm), or million gallons per day (mgd).

Dispersion: The spreading out of pollutants. Generally used to show the extent to which an air pollutant will spread from a particular point.

Displacement (as applied to wildlife): Forced shifts in the patterns of wildlife use, either in location or timing of use.

Disposal well: A well into which by-products (i.e., produced water, H₂S, and CO₂) from other wells is injected into an underground formation for disposal.

Drainage: Any channel through which water flows at least part time.

Drill rig: The mast, draw works, and attendant surface equipment of a drilling unit.

Drilling fluid: Fluid used to lubricate and cool the drill bit, to assist in lifting cuttings from the borehole, and to control pressures in the borehole.

Drought: Prolonged dry weather (precipitation less than 75% of average annual amount).

EA: See Environmental Assessment.

Ecosystem: An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment (e.g., forest, marsh, and stream ecosystems).

EIS: See Environmental Impact Statement.

Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF): Field of force surrounding a permanent magnet or a moving charged particle.

Electrical generation: The process of creating electricity from other forms of energy, such as fossil fuels.

Eligible sites: Meeting the conditions of the National Register of Historic Places.

Emergent vegetation: Erect, rooted, herbaceous plants that project out of or emerge from the water.

EMF: See electrical and magnetic field.

Emission(s): Air pollution discharged into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time.

Endangered species: A species that is in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the causal factors continue. Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 defines "endangered species" as any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environment: The totality of surrounding conditions in an area. Includes natural, human-made, physical, and social factors.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable environmental impacts, including physical, biological, economic, and social consequences and their interactions; short- and long-term impacts; and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A public document that analyzes whether a proposed action would require preparation of an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.

Eocene: The second epoch of the Cenozoic era; the start of the Eocene is marked by the emergence of the first modern mammals.

Eolian: Refers to landforms shaped by wind or sediments transported and deposited by wind.

Ephemeral drainage: A drainage area or a stream that has no base flow. Water flows for a short time each year but only in direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events.

Epidemiological: Of or relating to epidemiology; the study of the patterns, causes, and control of disease in groups of people.

Erosion: The removal, detachment, and entrainment of earth materials by weathering, dissolution, abrasion, and corrosion, later to be transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers.

Fault [geological]: A fracture in bedrock along which there has been vertical and/or horizontal movement caused by differential forces in the earth's crust.

Federal action: Proposed actions that partially or completely cross or are located on BLM-administered lands, or that require a federal permit.

Floodplain: The portion of a river valley, adjacent to the channel, that is built of recently deposited sediments and is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood stages.

Fluvial: Of or pertaining to rivers.

Forage: Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.

Forb: A broad-leaved flowering herb other than grass.

Formation: A body of earth material with distinctive and characteristic physical properties. A formation may be made of rock or of unconsolidated material such as sand, gravel, and clay and can be mapped on the earth's surface or traced in the subsurface.

Fossiliferous: Containing fossils.

Fugitive dust: Airborne particles emitted from any source other than a controllable stack or vent.

Gathering pipelines: Pipelines within a field that transport gas or oil from the well to a central production facility or to the point of sale.

Geologic unit: A geological unit is a volume of rock or ice of identifiable origin and age range that is defined by the distinctive and dominant, easily mapped and recognizable features that characterize it.

Glacial till: Material directly deposited from glacial ice.

Glaciated: Formed by glacial forces.

Geomorphology: The characteristics, configuration, and evolution of rocks and land forms

GHG: See greenhouse gas.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): Any of a variety of gases known to be transparent to incoming solar radiation but capable of absorbing reflected infrared radiation from the earth's surface. The principal greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane, and chlorofluorocarbons, among others.

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

H₂S: Hydrogen sulfide gas

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

Hazardous substance: A broad term that includes all substances that can be harmful to people or the environment; toxic substances, hazardous materials, and other similar terms are subsets of hazardous substances.

Headwaters: The place from which the water in the river or stream originates.

Helium: A very light colorless element that is one of the six inert gasses.

High neutral wire: The conductor of a polyphase circuit or a single-phase three-wire circuit that is intended to have a ground potential. This wire carries current to a ground source.

Historic properties: Those properties that are listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or properties designated as historic under a statute of the appropriate state or local government body.

HLF: Helium Liquefaction Facility

Hydrocarbon: A compound formed from carbon and hydrogen (e.g., oil and gas).

Hydrology: A science that focuses on the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface and subsurface water. Can also refer to the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface and subsurface water.

Hydrophilic vegetation: Vegetation that grows in water or on a substrate that is at least periodically deficient in oxygen as a result of excessive water content.

Hydrostatic testing: Testing of the integrity of a newly placed but uncovered pipeline for leaks. The pipeline is filled with water and pressurized to operating pressures, and the pipeline is visually inspected.

Hydrothermal brecciation: The formation of rock composed of angular fragments of minerals or rocks in a matrix by hydrothermal forces.

IDT: See Interdisciplinary team.

Impacts, long-term [NEPA]: For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, long-term impacts last for the life of the project or beyond.

Impacts, short-term [NEPA]: For the purpose of this NEPA analysis, short-term impacts are generally defined as those that would last for five years or less.

Impoundment [water]: The accumulation of any form of water in a reservoir or other storage area.

Infiltration [water]: The movement of water or some other liquid into the soil or rock through pores or other openings.

Infrastructure: The basic framework or underlying foundation of a community, including road networks, electric and gas distribution, water and sanitation services, and facilities.

Injection well: A well that is used to inject by-products from drilling operations (i.e., produced water or acid gas) in order to maintain pressure or to bring a field back under pressure.

Interim Reclamation: Reclaiming those portions of the well pads not needed for production operations, and includes drying and back-filling reserve pits, initial recontouring and redistribution of saved top soil, installing a rocked driveway, installing fencing as needed, and revegetating the area.

Intermittent stream: A stream or reach of a stream that is below the local water table for at least some part of the year and obtains its flow from both surface runoff and groundwater discharge.

Invasive species: A plant or animal species that has moved into an area and reproduced so aggressively that it has replaced some of the original (native) species.

Kernel Density Analysis: A method used for estimating the probability density function of a random variable. A kernel density analysis can be used to extrapolate the data to the entire population based on data from a sample of a population.

Key Observation Points (KOP): The most critical viewpoints or typical views encountered in representative landscapes along the proposed route.

KOP: See Key Observation Points.

Lacustrine: Associated with a lake.

Landslide: A perceptible downhill sliding or falling of a mass of soil and rock lubricated by moisture or snow.

Lek: A traditional courtship display area attended by male greater sage-grouse in or adjacent to sagebrush-dominated habitat.

Life of the project (LOP): Begins with the first disturbance authorized under the Record of Decision for a project and ends when all wells are plugged and abandoned and all surface disturbance (each disturbed site) meets the reclamation performance objectives.

Lithic scatter: A surface scatter of cultural artifacts and debris that consists entirely of lithic (i.e., stone) tools and chipped stone debris. This common prehistoric site type contrasts with a cultural material scatter (which contains other or additional artifact types such as pottery or bone artifacts), with a camp (which contains habitation features, such as hearths, storage features, or occupation features), or with other site types that contain different artifacts or features.

Lithology: The description of rock composition and texture.

Loam: A mixture of sand, silt, and clay containing between 7% and 27% clay, 28% to 50% silt, and less than 50% sand.

LOP: See Life of the project.

M&HRF: Methane and Helium Recovery Facility.

MMSCF: Million standard cubic feet.

MMCFD: Million standard cubic feet per day.

Mechanical integrity test: A physical test of well in the casing, tubing, or packer integrity to determine if there is a significant leak that could cause significant fluid movement into an underground source of drinking water through vertical channels adjacent to the wellbore.

Mesozoic: The middle one of three geologic eras. Following the Paleozoic, the Mesozoic extended roughly 180 million years: from 251 million years ago (Ma) to when the Cenozoic era began 65 Ma.

Million standard cubic feet (MMSCF): Standardized unit of volumetric measure.

Million cubic feet per day (MMCFD): Standardized rate of production.

Mineralized: An organic substance which has become impregnated by inorganic substances.

Migration corridor: A tract of land that forms a passageway and facilitates the seasonal migration of animals.

Mitigation measures: Actions taken to reduce or minimize potential impacts to the environment.

Mobile emission source: An emission source that moves, such as a car.

Model: A mathematical or physical representation of an observable situation. In air pollution control, models afford the ability to predict pollutant distribution or dispersion from identified sources for specified weather conditions.

Mudstone: A sedimentary rock whose grain size is smaller in size than the coarser sandstone or siltstone.

NAAQS: See National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants specified by the federal government. The air quality standards are divided into primary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public health) and secondary standards (based on the air quality criteria and allowing an adequate margin of safety and requisite to protect the public welfare from any unknown or expected adverse effects of air pollutants).

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): The federal law established in 1969, which went into effect on January 1, 1970, that established a national policy for the environment and requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement for every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA):

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The official list, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register lists archaeological, historic, and architectural properties nominated for their local, state, or national significance by state and federal agencies and approved by the National Register Staff.

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

NHPA: National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

No Action Alternative: The management direction, activities, outputs, and effects that are likely to exist in the future if the current plan were to continue unchanged.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO): A stipulation in a lease that disallows any surface disturbance in the lease area at any time. Natural gas or oil from an NSO area, for instance, would have to be recovered by directional drilling.

Noxious weeds: Officially designated (State of Wyoming-designated, Sublette County-declared) undesirable or invading weedy species generally introduced into an area by humans.

NO_x: A group of gases that cause acid rain and other environmental problems, such as smog and eutrophication of coastal waters. A criteria pollutant.

NRHP: See National Register of Historic Places.

NSO: See No Surface Occupancy.

OHV: Off-highway vehicle

Obligate species: Refers to a response to particular condition or way of life for which there is no alternative; i.e., a plant or animal that only lives in a prairie ecosystem.

Ozone (O₃): A molecule containing three oxygen atoms produced by passage of an electrical spark through air or oxygen (O₂). A criteria pollutant.

Paleontology: The science that focuses on the history and evolution of life on earth.

Paleozoic: The earliest of three geologic eras, occurring between 570 to 240 million years ago.

Palustrine: Nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergent plants, or emergent mosses or lichens, as well as small, shallow open water ponds or potholes.

Particulate matter: A particle of soil or liquid matter (e.g., soot, dust, aerosols, fumes, and mist).

Parturition: To give birth, birthing.

Permeability: The extent that a porous rock, sediment, or soil is able to transmit a liquid.

PFYC: See Potential Fossil Yield Classification.

Physiographic region: A region having a pattern of relief features or landforms that differs significantly from adjacent regions.

PFO: BLM Pinedale Field Office

PM_{2.5}: Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 microns or less.

PM₁₀: Airborne suspended particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less.

PPM: Parts per million.

Preferred Alternative: The alternative identified in the EA as the action favored by the lead agency.

Produced water [gas development]: Water brought to the surface through the borehole.

Production [gas development]: Phase of commercial operation of an oil field.

Proposed Action: The alternative identified in the EIS as the action favored by the project proponent.

PSD: See Prevention of significant deterioration.

Public lands: Lands or interests in lands owned by the United States and in this case administered by the Secretary of Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership.

Pulling and tensioning pad: The area where equipment is staged to tighten electrical transmission lines into their final operational position.

Quaternary: The geologic period beginning two to three million years ago and extending to the present; represented by local accumulations of glacial and post-glacial deposits.

RBPA: Rands Butte Project Area.

Range, winter: An area where migratory (and sometimes non-migratory) animals congregate during the winter season.

Range, year-long: Locations where specific species are able to reside in the same area throughout the year.

Rangeland: Land on which the natural vegetation is made up primarily of native grasses, forbs, or shrubs valuable for forage and suitable for grazing livestock.

Raptor: A group of carnivorous birds consisting of hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, vultures, and owls.

Reactivity [soil]: Measure of the pH of a soil.

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

Record of Decision (ROD): A decision document for an EIS or Supplemental EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision regarding the actions proposed in the EIS and their implementation.

Reasonable Alternatives: In determining the scope of alternatives to be considered, the emphasis is on what is "reasonable" rather than on whether the applicant likes or is itself capable of carrying out a particular alternative (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508). "An alternative that is outside the legal jurisdiction of the lead agency must still be analyzed in the EIS if it is reasonable."

Re-complete [gas development]: Redrill an oil well to a new producing zone (new depth) when the current zone is.

Recreation resources: In the project area, these resources include undeveloped recreation opportunities such as off-road vehicle use, boating, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, and hiking.

Recharge, groundwater: A hydrologic process where water moves downward from surface water to groundwater.

Reserve pit: An excavated pit that may be lined with plastic that holds drill cuttings and waste mud.

Reserves/recoverable reserves: Areas of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can be extracted profitably using existing technology and under present economic conditions.

Reservoir [gas or hydrocarbon]: The "pool" of oil or gas that is being tapped.

Residual impacts: Impacts to a protected resource or resource value remaining after all mitigation and reclamation are taken into account.

Residuum: Materials resulting from the disintegration, decomposition, or weathering of bedrock.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): A BLM planning document, prepared in accordance with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that presents systematic guidelines for making resource management decisions for a resource area. RMPs are issues-oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.

Resource roads: Spur roads that provide point access, as to a well site, and connect to local or collector roads.

Revegetation: The re-establishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, human assistance will speed natural processes by seedbed preparation, reseeding, and mulching.

Richter (magnitude) scale: A logarithmic scale used to measure earthquake magnitude (intensity). Each unit increase in the Richter scale represents a 10-fold increase in the amplitude recorded on the seismogram and a 30-fold increase in energy released by the earthquake. (See also Modified Mercalli Scale of Intensity.)

Rig: A collective term to describe the equipment needed when drilling a well.

Right-of-way (ROW): The legal right for use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or purposes.

Riparian: Land areas directly influenced by water that usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streamsides and lake borders are typical riparian areas.

ROD: See Record of Decision.

Roosting: Refers to avian slumber; a bird will typically use the same roost for an extended period of time.

ROW: See Right-of-way.

Runoff: That part of precipitation that appears in surface streams. Precipitation that is not retained on the site where it falls and is not absorbed by the soil.

SWPPP: Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Sagebrush obligates: Species that depend on sagebrush to survive (e.g., pygmy rabbit, sage sparrow, sage-grouse).

Salinity: A measure of the concentration of dissolved salts in a given amount of water or body of water. Can also refer to the salt content of soil.

Sandstone: A sedimentary rock whose grain size is larger in size than the finer siltstone or mudstone.

Scoping [NEPA]: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS or EA and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, and written comments in response to news releases, direct mailings, and articles about the proposed action and scoping meetings.

Sediment: Soil or mineral transported by moving water, wind, gravity, or glaciers, and deposited in streams or other bodies of water or on land.

Sedimentation: The process that deposits soils, debris, and other materials either on the ground surfaces or in bodies of water or watercourses.

Seismic: Pertaining to an earthquake or earth vibration, including those that are artificially induced.

Sensitive soils: Soils having physical and/or chemical characteristics that could inhibit or limit successful stabilization and revegetation in the reclamation of sites disturbed by construction and the operation of oil and gas facilities.

Sensitive Wildlife Species: Those species that could become endangered or extirpated in the state. Also called BLM Sensitive Species.

Seronegative: is the number of individuals in a population who test negative for a specific disease (i.e. brucellosis) based on serology (blood serum) specimens.

Seropositive: is the number of individuals in a population who test positive for a specific disease (i.e. brucellosis) based on serology (blood serum) specimens.

Severance tax: A tax imposed by a state on the extraction of natural resources, such as oil, coal, or gas, that will be used in other states.

Shale: A laminated sediment in which the constituent particles are predominantly of the clay grade.

Significant impact: A meaningful criteria or standard to which an action may impact the environment. The impact may be beneficial, adverse, direct, indirect, or cumulative and may be short-term or long-term.

Silt: Any earthy material composed of fine particles, smaller than sand but larger than clay, suspended in or deposited by water.

Siltstone: A sedimentary rock whose grain size is intermediate in size, falling between the coarser sandstone and finer mudstone.

Site-specific analysis [NEPA]: Environmental assessments designed to address issues related to small projects, such as individual wells, generally under the guidance of a more comprehensive NEPA document.

SPCC Plan: Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan

SO₂: See sulfur dioxide.

Social structure: Relationships or bonds between groups of individuals (e.g., societies).

Socioeconomics: The study of impacts on a region's current and projected population and relative demographic characteristics (housing, economy, government, etc.).

Sodic soil: Soil with a high concentration of sodium.

Soil productivity: The capacity of a soil to produce a specific crop, such as fiber and forage, under defined levels of management. It is generally dependent on available soil moisture, nutrients, and length of growing season.

Soil Stability: The susceptibility of a soil to erosion.

Sour gas: Any gas containing significant amounts of H₂S gas.

Stationary Emission Source: An emission source that does not move, such as a power plant.

Stipulation: A legal requirement that is 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. Stipulations are supported by the NEPA process; without NEPA support, a stipulation cannot be added to the lease.

Substrate: Material consisting of silts, sands, gravels, boulders, and/or woody debris found on the bottom of a stream channel.

Sulfur dioxide (SO₂): One of a group of gases that causes acid rain and other environmental problems. A criteria pollutant.

Surface water: Water that sits or flows on the surface of the earth, including oceans, rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs constructed by humans.

TCP: See traditional cultural property.

TDS: See total dissolved solids.

Tectonic: Pertaining to the structure or movement of the earth's crust.

Terrace [landform]: Broadly horizontal deposits of gravels laid down by river systems at different times in the past.

Tertiary: The older of the two geologic periods comprising the Cenozoic era; the system of strata deposited during that period.

Threatened species: Any species (plant or animal) that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Threatened species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Topsoil: The uppermost layers of naturally occurring soils suitable for use as a plant growth medium.

Total dissolved solids (TDS): Total amount of dissolved material, organic or inorganic, contained in a sample of water.

Traditional cultural property (TCP) [archaeological]: A cultural resource known to be perceived by a specified social and/or cultural group as important in maintaining the cultural identity, heritage, or well-being of the group. In the planning area, this mainly pertains to cultural sites that are sensitive to Native American tribes.

Tribal consultation: Conference between or within a Native American tribe and another party to consider a particular question.

Trona: An evaporite mineral that is used as a source of sodium carbonate.

Turbidity: A measurement of the total suspended solids in water.

Two-track: A road that has not been constructed or maintained but that has been created by repeated use.

Understory: A layer of vegetation underlying a layer of taller vegetation, such as brush and grass under trees.

USFS: United States Forest Service

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service

USGS: United States Geological Survey

Viewshed: The areas seen from any given point.

Visibility: The visual quality of the view or scene in daylight, with respect to color, rendition, and contrast definition.

Visual resource: The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetation patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for viewers.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): A system of visual management used by the BLM. The program has a dual purpose: 1) to manage the quality of the visual environment, and 2) to reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all BLM resource programs.

VOC: See volatile organic compounds.

Volatile organic compounds: Organic (carbon-containing) compounds that evaporate readily at room temperature. These compounds are used as solvents, degreasers, paints, thinners, and fuels. They are defined by the Clean Air Act as chemicals that participate in forming ozone (O₃), a criteria pollutant.

VRM: See Visual Resource Management.

Water quality: Refers to a set of chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that describe the condition of a river, stream, or lake. The quality of water determines what beneficial uses it can support.

Watershed: The total land area that drains to a given watercourse or body of water.

Waters of the U.S.: A jurisdictional term from Section 404 of the Clean Water Act referring to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds with defined bed and bank.

Well or wellbore: The hole drilled from the surface to the gas-bearing formation, several of which may be developed from a single well pad.

Well completion: Involves the perforation or stimulation of productive zones.

Well pad: Relatively flat work area (surface location) that is used for drilling a well or wells and for producing from the well once it is completed.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support—and under normal circumstances do or would support—a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

WGFD: Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

WDEQ: Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality.