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abandon: To cease producing oil or gas from a well when it becomes unprofitable. An exploration well may be abandoned after it has been proven nonproductive. Usually, some of the casing is removed and salvaged, and one or more cement plugs placed in the borehole to prevent migration of fluids between formations.

acre foot: A volume of water that covers an area of one acre to a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

ad valorem: Levied according to assessed value.

affected environment: The biological, physical, and socioeconomic environment that will or may be changed by actions proposed and the relationship of people to that environment.

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 several pastures or be only one pasture.

alluvium: General term for debris deposited by streams on river beds, floodplains, and alluvial fans, especially deposits brought down during a flood. Applies to stream deposits of recent time. Does not include below water sediments of seas and lakes.

alternative: A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis or expressed in goals and objectives. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision making.

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

ambient air quality: The state of the atmosphere at ground-level as defined by the range of measured and/or predicted ambient concentrations of all significant pollutants for all averaging periods of interest.

ambient concentration: The mass of a pollutant in a given volume of air. It is typically measured as micrograms of pollutant per cubic meter of air.

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

animal unit month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow/calf pair for 1 month.

anticline: An arched, inverted-trough configuration of folded and stratified rock layers.

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

aquifer: A water-bearing bed or layer of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding water, or the part of a water-driven reservoir that contains the aquifer.

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

artesian: Groundwater with sufficient pressure to flow without pumping.

assemblage: A group of rocks grouped together by age or similar origin.

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background concentration: The existing levels of air pollutant concentration in a given region. In general, it includes natural and existing emission sources, but not future emission sources.

badland: Steep or very steep, commonly non-stony barren land dissected by many intermittent drainage channels. Badland is 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.

basin: A closed geologic structure in which the beds dip toward the center; the youngest rocks are at the center of a basin and are partly or completely ringed by progressively older rocks.

Best Available Control Technology (BACT): The best available air pollution control technology for a given emission source, considering environmental benefits, economic and energy costs, as defined by the applicable air quality regulatory authority.

big game: Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

borehole: A circular hole made by boring; especially a deep hole of small diameter, such as an oil well or a water well.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The Department of Interior agency responsible for managing most Federal Government subsurface minerals. It has surface management responsibility for Federal lands designated under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

canopy: The more-or-less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees and other woody growth.

carrying capacity: The ability of an area of land to sustain a species [generally livestock] over time without permanently degrading the land resources.

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

completion: The activities and methods to prepare a well for production. Includes installation of equipment for production from an oil or gas well.

Condition of Approval (COA): Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an Application for a Permit to Drill or a Sundry Notice is approved.

coniferous: Referring to a cone-bearing, usually evergreen, tree.

contrast: The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of the landscape features within the area being viewed.

Controlled Surface Use (CSU): Use or occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. CSU is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the NSO or Timing stipulations.

corridor: A strip of land, usually a few to many times the width of a right-of-way through which one or more facilities (e.g. pipelines, roads, powerlines) may be located.

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

criteria pollutants: Air pollutants for which the EPA has established State and National Ambient Air Quality Standards. These include particulate matter (PM₁₀), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), and volatile organic compounds (VOC).

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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.

cubic feet per second (cfs): The rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot of water passing a given point during 1 second.

cubic foot: The volume of gas contained in one cubic foot of space at a standard pressure base of 14.7 psi and a standard temperature base of 60 degrees Fahrenheit.

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 which 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).

deciduous: Trees or shrubs that lose their leaves each year during a cold or dry season.

decibel: A unit of measurement of noise intensity. The measurements are based on the energy of the sound waves and units are logarithmic. Changes of 5 decibels or more are normally discernible to the human ear.

development well: A well drilled in proven territory (usually within 1 mile of an existing well).

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

discharge: 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 how much 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 produced water from other wells is injected into an underground formation for disposal.

dissolved solids: The total amount of dissolved material, organic and inorganic, contained in water or wastes.

disturbance: An event that changes the local environment by removing organisms or opening up an area, facilitating colonization by new, often different, organisms.

disturbed area: Area where natural vegetation and soils have been removed or disrupted.

diversity: The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a Land and Resource Management Plan.

drainage: Natural channel through which water flows some time of the year. Natural and artificial means for effecting discharge of water as by a system of surface and subsurface passages.

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drill bit: The cutting device used to drill a well. It is typically made of hardened steel, and may have industrial grade diamond components.

drilling mud: The circulating fluid used to bring cuttings out of the well bore, cool the drill bit, and provide hole stability and pressure control. Drilling mud includes a number of additives to maintain the mud at desired viscosities and weights. Some additives that may be used are caustic, toxic, or acidic.

drill pad: Relatively flat work area that contains equipment and facilities used for well drilling and well completion.

drill pipe: The heavy seamless tubing used to rotate the drill bit and circulate the drilling fluid. The standard drill pipe section is 30 feet long (a joint).

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

dry hole: Any well incapable of producing oil or gas in commercial quantities. A dry hole may produce water, gas or even oil, but not enough to justify production.

earthquake: Sudden movement of the earth's crust resulting from faulting, volcanism, or other mechanisms.

ecosystem: An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment for example, marsh, watershed, and stream ecosystems.

effects: These include: a) Direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place; b) Indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems. Effects and impacts as used in these regulations are synonymous. Effects includes ecological (such as the effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems), aesthetic, historic, cultural, economic, social, or health, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative.

Effects may also include those resulting from actions which may have both beneficial and detrimental effects, even if on balance the agency believes that the effect will be beneficial (40 CFR 1508.8).

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

emission factor: An empirically derived mathematical relationship between pollutant emission rate and some characteristic of the source such as volume, area, mass, or process output.

endangered species (animal): Any animal species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. This definition excludes species of insects that the Secretary of the Interior determines to be pests and whose protection under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 would present an overwhelming and overriding risk to man.

endangered species (plant): Species of plants in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges. Existence may be endangered because of the destruction, drastic change, or severe curtailment of habitat, or because of over exploitation, disease, predation, or even unknown reasons. Plant taxa from very limited areas (e.g. the type localities only), or from restricted fragile habitats usually are considered endangered.

endemic: Confined naturally to a particular geographic area. Often used in opposition to the word epidemic.

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environment: The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

environmental assessment (EA): An investigation of a proposed action and alternatives to that action and their direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts; the process which provides the necessary information for reaching an informed decision and the information needed for determining whether a proposed action may have significant environmental effects and determining the type of environmental documents required.

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

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.

ephemeral stream: A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation in the immediate watershed or in response to the melting of a cover of snow and ice and which has a channel bottom that is always above the local water table.

emission: Air pollution discharge into the atmosphere, usually specified by mass per unit time.

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.

exploration: The search for economic deposits of minerals, ore, and other materials through practices of geology, geochemistry, geophysics, drilling, and/or mapping.

exploration well: A well drilled in an area where there is no oil or gas production. (Check ch.1 to see if added)

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

federal lands: All lands and interests in lands owned by the U.S. that are subject to the mineral leasing laws, including mineral resources or mineral estates reserved to the U.S. in the conveyance of a surface or non-mineral estate.

fisheries: Streams and lakes used for fishing.

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

fluvial: Comprehensive term for river processes.

footprint: The actual surface area physically disturbed by oil and gas operations and ancillary facilities.

forage: Vegetation of all forms available for animal consumption.

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

formation (Geologic): A rocky body distinguishable from other rock bodies and useful for mapping or description. Formations may be combined into groups or subdivided into members.

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

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functional value: A term that refers to the various functions performed by wetlands and the value people place on those functions. Functions are the chemical, physical, and biological processes or attributes of a wetland without regard to their importance to society. They include groundwater recharge and discharge, sediment trapping, nutrient/pollutant retention and removal, shoreline anchoring and dissipation of erosive forces, food chain support, wildlife and fish habitat, and heritage value (including active and passive recreation, uniqueness, etc.).

game species: Animals commonly hunted for food or sport.

grade: A slope stated in terms of feet per mile or as feet per foot (percent); the content of precious metal per volume of rock (ounces per ton).

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

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.

habitat type: The aggregate of all areas that support or can support the same primary vegetation at a climax.

hazardous waste: (A) Any substance designated pursuant to section 311(b)(2)(A) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. (B) Any element, compound, mixture, solution, or substance designated pursuant to section 102 of this Act. (C) Any hazardous waste having the characteristics identified under or listed pursuant to section 3001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (but not including any waste the regulation of which under the Solid Waste Disposal Act has been suspended by Act of Congress). (D) Any toxic pollutant listed under section 307(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. (E) Any hazardous air pollutant listed under section 112 of the Clean Air Act. (F) Any imminently hazardous chemical substance or mixture with respect to which the Administrator has taken action pursuant to section 7 of the Toxic Substances Control Act. The term does not include petroleum, including crude oil or any fraction thereof which is not otherwise specifically listed or designated as a hazardous substance under subparagraphs (A) through (F) of this paragraph, and the term does not include natural gas, natural gas liquids, liquefied natural gas, or synthetic gas usable for fuel (or mixtures of natural gas and such synthetic gas).

herbaceous: The plant strata which contain soft, not woody, stemmed plants that die to the ground in winter.

hydric soils: A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded with water long enough during the growing season (i.e., soil temperature of 41°F at 20 inches depth) to develop anaerobic soil conditions (i.e., reduced oxygen levels). These soils develop characteristics that are indicative of the wet and anaerobic conditions. Such characteristics may include an undecomposed organic surface layer (histic epipedon), surface horizons with low chromas (i.e., very dark brown to black), organic staining and streaking, grey-colored layers of horizons, iron concretions, and/or light grey- or rust-colored mottles or specks of highly contrasting color. These characteristics must generally occur within 50 percent of the root zone.

hydrology: A science that deals with the properties, distribution, and circulation of surface and subsurface water.

hydrophytic plants: Those species which either require or tolerate wet or saturated soils and are therefore indicative of the conditions. Vegetation is a good indicator of the physical conditions on a given site. Such conditions include soil moisture.

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.

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impact: The results of an action on the environment; the impact may be primary (direct) or secondary (indirect); the term impact is synonymous with effect according to 40 CFR 1508.8.

infiltration: 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 used to inject fluids into an underground formation to increase reservoir pressure.

interdisciplinary team (IDT): A group selected to work within the NEPA process in scoping, analysis, and document preparation. The purpose of the team is to integrate its collective knowledge of the physical, biological, economic, and social sciences and the environmental design arts into the environmental analysis process. Interaction among team members often provides insight that otherwise would not be apparent.

intermittent stream: A stream or reach of a stream that drains a watershed of at least one square mile; or 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.

jurisdictional wetlands: "Those wetlands which are within the extent of COE regulatory overview" (33 CFR 328.1 and (2)). For an area to be identified as a jurisdictional wetland, the area must exhibit positive indicators of wetland hydrology, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils. Those areas that do not meet the three parameters are uplands or non-jurisdictional wetlands. The Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (Environmental Laboratory 1987) describes technical criteria for determining hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology, and therefore the occurrence of jurisdictional wetlands.

landform: Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the Earth's surface, having a characteristic shape and produced by natural causes. Includes major features such as plains, plateaus, and mountains, and minor features, such as hills, valleys, slopes, canyons, arroyos, and alluvial fans.

landscape character: The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features as defined as the four basic elements (form, line, color, and texture). These factors give the area a quality that distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

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

land use: Land uses determined for a given area that establish the types of activities allowed (e.g., mining, agriculture, timber production, residential, industrial).

lead agency: The agency or agencies preparing or having taken primary responsibility for preparing the environmental impact statement (40 CFR 1508.16).

lease: (1) A legal document that conveys to an operator the right to drill for oil and gas. (2) The tract of land on which a lease has been obtained, where producing wells and production equipment are located.

leasable minerals: Federal minerals subject to Lease under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, and supplemented. Includes minerals, such as oil, gas, coal, geothermal, tar sands, oil shale, potassium, phosphate, sodium, asphaltic materials.

lek: An assembly area for communal courtship display, usually in reference to greater sage-grouse or other grouse.

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

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

management area: An area composed of aggregate pieces of land (generally several to many analysis areas) to which a given management objective and prescriptions are applied.

management direction: A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

mesic area: A habitat having a moderate amount of moisture available for the support of plant life.

methane (CH₄): The simplest hydrocarbon; natural gas is nearly pure methane.

mineral rights: Reserved mineral rights are the retention of ownership of all or part of the mineral rights by a person or party conveying land to the United States. Conditions for exercising these rights have been defined in the Secretary's "Rules and Regulations to Govern Exercising of Mineral Rights Reserved in Conveyances to the United States" attached to and made a part of deeds reserving mineral rights.

mitigate: To lessen the severity.

mitigation: Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

modeling: 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.

monitor: To systematically and repeatedly watch, observe, or measure environmental conditions in order to track changes.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the air 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 (NEPA): The federal law established in 1969, which went into effect on January 1, 1970, that (1) established a national policy for the environment, (2) requires federal agencies to become aware of the environmental ramifications of their proposed actions, (3) requires full disclosure to the public of proposed federal actions and a mechanism for public input into the federal decision-making process, and (4) requires federal agencies to prepare an environmental impact statement for every major action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

National Register of Historic Places: A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture.

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native species: Plants that originated in the area in which they are found, i.e., they naturally occur in that area.

natural gas: Those hydrocarbons, other than oil and other than natural gas liquids separated from natural gas, that occur naturally in the gaseous phase in the reservoir and are produced and recovered at the wellhead in gaseous form. Natural gas includes coal bed methane gas.

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

Notice of Staking: Prior to filing a complete Application for Permit to Drill (APD) an Operator may wish to file a Notice of Staking (NOS). Under this procedure, the site is surveyed and staked, and the on site inspection is used to provide information to the Operator prior to the Operator committing time and money in preparing an APD which might not reflect agency concerns.

noxious weeds: Officially designated undesirable or invading weedy species generally introduced into an area due to human activity.

ozone: A molecule containing three oxygen atoms (O_3) produced by passage of an electrical spark through air or oxygen (O_2).

paleontology: The science that deals with the history and evolution of life on earth.

parent materials: Unconsolidated material formed from bed rock which undergoes further changes to form soil.

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

perennial stream: A stream or reach of a stream that flows throughout the year.

permeability: Extent that a substance is open to passage or penetration, especially by fluids.

permittee (grazing): A person who has livestock grazing privileges on an allotment or allotments within the resource area.

pH: The negative log₁₀ of the hydrogen ion activity in solution; a measure of acidity or basicity of a solution.

playa: The shallow central basin of a desert plain, in which water gathers after a rain and is evaporated.

preferred alternative: The alternative identified in the EIS as the action favored by the agency.

prevailing wind: The most frequent compass direction from which the wind blows.

prevention of significant deterioration of air quality (PSD): A classification established to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in National Wilderness Preservation System areas in existence prior to August 1977 and other areas of National significance, while ensuring economic growth can occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources. Specific emission limitations and other measures, by class, are detailed in the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1875 et 15q.).

produced water: Formation water pumped during the development of a gas well.

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PSD increments: The maximum allowable increase in pollutant concentrations permitted over baseline conditions as specified in the EPA Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) regulations (40 CFR Part 52.21). The regulations apply only to area currently attaining NAAQS/WAAQS. Most National Parks and Wilderness areas are Class I Areas, where almost no future pollution increase is permitted. Most other areas are Class II Areas, where moderate increases in pollution levels are allowed.

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

range: Land producing native forage for animal consumption and lands that are revegetated naturally or artificially to provide forage cover that is managed like native vegetation, which are amenable to certain range management principles or practices.

raptor: Living on prey; a group of carnivorous birds consisting of hawks, eagles, falcons, kites, vultures, and owls.

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 Environmental Impact Statement or Supplemental EIS that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision regarding the actions proposed in the EIS and their implementation.

reserve pit: (1) Usually an excavated pit that may be lined with plastic, that holds drill cuttings and waste mud. (2) Term for the pit which holds the drilling mud.

reserves: Identified resources of mineral-bearing rock from which the mineral can be extracted profitably with existing technology and under present economic conditions.

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

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 which are directly influenced by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Streamsides, lake borders, or marshes are typical of riparian areas.

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.

salinity: A measure of the amount of mineral substances dissolved in water.

scatter (archeological): Random evidence of prior disturbance that is distributed about an area rather than concentrated in a single location.

scoping: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in an EIS 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.

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sediment load: The amount of sediment (sand, silt, and fine particles) carried by a stream or river.

sedimentary: Rock formed from fragments of pre-existing rocks (e.g. sandstone) or by precipitation from solution (e.g. limestone).

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

seismic operations: Use of explosive or mechanical thumpers to generate shock waves that can be read by special equipment to indicate subsurface conditions.

sensitive species: Those species of plants or animals that have appeared in the Federal Register as proposed for classification and are under consideration for official listing as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This also includes species that are on an official state list or are recognized by the Land Manager as needing special management to prevent their being placed on federal or state lists.

sensitivity level: A particular degree or measure of viewer interest in the scenic qualities of the landscape.

shallow coal seam: Those coal seams that are too shallow to drill to directionally given the area geology and spacing limitations.

shut in: To close the valves on a well so it ceases production.

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

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

soil: Loose, unconsolidated surface material comprising topsoil and subsoil.

spawning: The deposition of eggs and sperm by fish.

species: (1) The classification level of biological nomenclature which categorized each group of related organisms potentially capable of interbreeding; (2) the accepted level of classification to differentiate one specific type of organism from another.

species of concern: Species of concern include federally listed threatened or endangered species, species proposed for listing, BLM sensitive species, and species considered rare or important by the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (WYNDD).

spp.: An abbreviation for the plural of species.

spud: Begin drilling a well.

stipulation: A legal requirement, specifically a 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.

strata: An identifiable layer of bedrock or sediment; does not imply a particular thickness of rock.

substrate: Material consisting of silts, sands, gravels, boulder and woody debris found on the bottom of a stream channel.

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surface lands: Lands consisting of the outside part of the solid earth or ocean as contrasted with subsurface or below surface land use(s) such as drilling and mixing.

threatened and endangered species: Any species, plant or animal, which 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.

topography: The features of the earth, including relief, vegetation, and waters.

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.

turbidity: A fisheries measurement of the total suspended solids in water expressed as nephelometric turbidity units (NTU).

usable water: Defined by Onshore Oil and Gas Order No. 2 as groundwater with a TDS of 10,000 ppm or less encountered at any depth.

vegetation: All of the plants growing in and characterizing a specific area or region; the combination of different plant communities found there.

vegetation type: A plant community with visually distinguishable characteristics, named for the apparent dominant species.

viewshed: Landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

visibility: A measurement of the maximum distance to which large objects may be viewed. Fixed reference objects such as mountains, hills, towers, or buildings are normally used to estimate visibility.

visual range: The distance at which a black object (in practice, a distant mountain) becomes indistinguishable to an observer.

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, to manage the quality of the visual environment and to reduce the visual impact of development activities while maintaining effectiveness in all Bureau resource programs. VRM also identifies scenic areas that warrant protection through special management attention. The system uses five classes for categorizing visual resources.

Class 1 - Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. Any contrasts created within the characteristic landscape must not attract attention. This classification is applied to wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, and other similar situations.

Class 2 - Changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Contrasts are seen, but must not attract attention.

Class 3 - Contrasts to the basic elements caused by a management activity are evident, but should remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

Class 4 - Any contrast attracts attention and is a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale, but it should repeat the form, line, color and texture of the characteristic landscape.

Glossary

Class 5 - The classification is applied to areas where the natural character of the landscape has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring it up to one of the four other classifications. The classification also applies to areas where unacceptable cultural modification has lowered scenic quality; it is often used as an interim classification until objectives of another class can be reached.

water bar: A ridge made across a hill to divert water to one side.

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 which beneficial uses it can support. Different instream conditions or levels of water quality are needed to support different beneficial uses.

Waters of the United States: 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, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

watershed: A topographically delineated area that is drained by a stream system, that is, the total land area above some point on a stream or river that drains past that point.

wellbore: The diameter of the hole to be drilled.

well head: The equipment used to maintain surface control of a well. It is composed of the casing head, tubing head and a series of valves and fittings.

well pad: Relatively flat work area that contains equipment and facilities used for oil/gas production.

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

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): An area determined to have wilderness characteristics. WSAs are submitted to the President and Congress for wilderness designation. These areas are an interim designation, valid until either designated as wilderness or released to multiple-use management.

wind rose: Any one of a class of diagrams designed to illustrate the distribution of wind direction experienced at a given location over a given period of time. Wind roses may also give information concerning distribution of wind speed, stability, or other meteorological parameters.

winter range: The place where migratory (and sometimes non-migratory) animals congregate during the winter season.

workover: Well maintenance activities that require onsite mobilization of a drill rig to repair the well bore equipment (casing, tubing, rods, or pumps) or the wellhead. In some cases, a workover may involve development activities to improve production from the target formation.