

7.0 Glossary

Ancillary Facility	Includes access roads, underground electric collector lines, overhead electric transmission line, and substations.
Annualized Average Wind Speed	The overall average of the wind speed, measured near the ground, in a 1-year period, measured in units of length per time.
Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used or where no development is required) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The identification of a potential ACEC shall not, of itself, change or prevent change of the management or use of public lands.
Application Area	The CCSM Wind Site Testing and Monitoring Application Area, totaling 222,689 acres of public, private, and state land, and Application Areas for ROWs of ancillary facilities.
Background Zone	The viewing area of a distance zone that lies beyond the foreground and middleground. Usually from a minimum of 3 to 5 miles to a maximum of about 15 miles from a travel route, use area, or other observer position. Atmospheric conditions in some areas may limit the maximum to about 8 miles or increase it beyond 15 miles.
Characteristic Landscape	The established landscape within an area viewed. The term does not necessarily mean a natural character, but may refer to features of the cultural landscape such as a farming community, an urban landscape, or other landscape that has an identifiable character.
Checkerboard Land Pattern	Alternating sections of federally owned lands and private or state lands on either side of the UPRR in southwestern Wyoming. This pattern of land ownership looks like a checkerboard on maps, using different colors to show land status.
Conformance	Condition in which a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.
Contrast	Opposition or unlikeness of different forms, lines, colors, or textures in a landscape.
Cultural Resources	Archaeological sites, architectural structures or features, objects, traditional use areas, and Native American sacred sites or special use areas.

Decision Area	A smaller area within the Planning Area boundary that was most likely to be influenced by the CCSM Wind Energy Project proposal where VRM decisions will be made in the VRM Plan Amendment.
Dispersed Recreation	Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. An example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, OHV use, hiking, and sightseeing.
Disruptive Activities	This term/phrase refers to those public land resource uses/activities that are likely to alter the behavior of, displace, or cause excessive stress to animal or human populations. This term/phrase does not apply to any physical disturbance of the features of the land surface. Examples of disruptive activities may include, among others: noise, human foot or vehicle traffic, or other human presence, regardless of the purpose of the activity. When administered as a land use restriction (e.g., No Disruptive Activities), or provision, this phrase prohibits or limits the physical presence of sound above ambient levels, lights, and the nearness of people and their activities. As a case in point, this restriction is often aimed at protecting wildlife during critical life stages, or during periods of severe winter weather conditions, although it could apply to any resource value on the public lands. Disruptive activities include both short- and long-term effects on species.
Distance Zones	Areas of landscapes denoted by specified distances from the observer, particularly on roads, trails, concentrated-use areas, rivers, etc. Used as one criterion in obtaining VRM classes (BLM) (see Background, Foreground-Midleground, and Seldom Seen).
Existing roads	Roads preexisting to the start of construction, including two-track trails that will need to be improved.
Fire Suppression	All work and activities associated with fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.
Forage	All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals that may be grazed or harvested for feeding.
Foreground-Midleground	The area visible from a travel route, use area, or other observer position to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape and vegetation is apparent only in pattern or outline.
Forest Land	Lands that are capable of producing at least a 10 percent crown cover of both commercial and noncommercial forest vegetation and that are managed for other resource values.
Fugitive Dust	Airborne emissions of visible and nonvisible fine, dry particulate matter smaller than 100 micrometers (microns) that result from surface disturbance activities.

Greater Sage-grouse Core Area	Areas delineated by the State of Wyoming with the intent of protection of greater sage-grouse populations and habitat as established in State of Wyoming Executive Order 2010-04, Greater Sage-grouse Core Area Protection (August 2010).
Herd Management Area	An area that has been designated for continuing management of wild horses.
Historic	Period wherein nonnative cultural activities took place, based primarily on European roots, having no origin in the traditional Native American culture(s).
Intensive Management	Management that includes the use of proper distance restrictions, mitigation stipulations, seasonal or timing restrictions, rehabilitation standards, reclamation measures, use of BMPs, and the application of the Wyoming Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing and Disruptive Activities to adequately protect the resources for which the intensive management is applied. Intensive management actions would be applied with the goal of maintaining or enhancing sensitive resources (i.e., plant communities, wildlife habitat, soils, water, archaeological or paleontological resources, etc.). Management may include attaching conditions of approval to specific projects or additional planning recognizing the unique resources for which the area is managed; typically these would be more restrictive than standard management and would be designed for specific projects and locations.
Invasive Weed	A species that is not native (or is alien) to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health (Executive Order 13112).
Jurisdiction	The legal right to control or regulate use of a transportation facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.
Key Observation Point (KOP)	One or a series of points on a travel route or at a use area or a potential use area, where the view of a management activity would be most revealing.
Landform	Any physical, recognizable form or feature of the Earth's surface, with 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	The landforms of a region in aggregate.
Landscape Character	The arrangement of a specific 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 distinctive quality that distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

Land Use Plan	A set of decisions that establishes management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of the FLPMA; an assimilation of land use plan level decisions developed through the planning process, regardless of the scale on which the decisions were developed.
Mineral	Any solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the Earth for profit.
Mitigation	A method or process by which impacts from actions can be made less injurious to the environment through appropriate protective measures. Also called mitigative measure.
Multiple Use	Coordinated management of various surface and subsurface resources so that they are used in the combination that will best meet present and future needs.
National Natural Landmarks (NNL)	Outstanding examples of our country's natural history. The NPS' NNL program recognizes and encourages the conservation of these outstanding examples of our country's natural history. NNLs are the best examples of biological and geological features in both public and private ownership. NNLs are designated by the Secretary of the Interior, with the owner's concurrence. To date, fewer than 600 sites have been designated. The NPS administers the NNL Program, and if requested, assists NNL owners and managers with the conservation of these important sites.
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)	The official register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, and culture, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and maintained by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.
Noxious Weed	A plant species designated by federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or non-native, new, or not common to the United States. (Vegetation Treatment Using Herbicides Programmatic EIS, BLM 2007.)
Planning Area	A nominally 30-mile radius around the CCSM Wind Energy Project, which includes a small swath of isolated lands in the southeast area of the Saratoga Valley to the Wyoming state line that is geographically connected to and influenced by the decisions in the Planning Area.
Public Land	As used in this document, federally owned surface or mineral estate specifically administered by the BLM.
Proper Functioning Condition	A qualitative assessment procedure used to evaluate the physical functioning of riparian/wetland areas through consideration of hydrology, vegetation, and soil/landform attributes.

Recreation Sites	<p>Specific areas where concentrated recreation use is known to occur. There are two kinds of sites, developed and undeveloped.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed Recreation Sites: Recreation sites that are constructed and maintained by the BLM or other agencies by cooperative agreement. • Undeveloped Recreation Sites: Sites not planned, designed, engineered, constructed or maintained by the BLM, but recognized by the BLM as receiving significant visitation. In the RMPPA, these sites are associated with fishing, river access points, or stops along nationally designated trails.
Resource Management Plan (RMP)	<p>A land use plan, as prescribed by the FLPMA, that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and objectives and actions to be achieved.</p>
Resource Roads	<p>Internal roads located within the project boundary.</p>
Right-of-Way (ROW)	<p>A permit or grant that authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the lands covered by such a grant or permit.</p>
Scenic Quality	<p>A measure of the visual appeal of a parcel of land.</p>
Scenic Quality Ratings	<p>The relative scenic quality (A, B, or C) assigned a landscape by applying the scenic quality evaluation key factors; scenic quality A being the highest rating, B a moderate rating, and C the lowest rating. Lands are reviewed and rated using seven key factors: landforms, vegetation, water, color, influence of adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications.</p>
Seldom Seen Distance Zone	<p>Portions of the landscape, which are generally not visible from KOPs, or portions, which are visible but more than 15 miles away.</p>
Sensitivity Level	<p>Measure of public concern for scenic quality. Lands are assigned high, medium, or low sensitivity levels based on consideration of the following factors: types of users, amount of use, public interest, adjacent land uses, special areas, and other factors.</p>
Stipulation	<p>A condition or requirement attached to a lease or contract, usually dealing with protection of the environment or recovery of a mineral.</p>
Surface Disturbance	<p>Any action created through mechanized or mechanical means that would cause soil mixing or result in alteration or removal of soil or vegetation and expose the mineral soil to erosive processes. Used in the literal context of actual, physical disturbance and movement or removal of the land surface and vegetation. Examples of surface disturbance include construction of well pads, pits, reservoirs, pipelines, and facilities (e.g., parking lot and tanks).</p>

Viewshed	Total visible area from a single observer's position or the total visible area from multiple observer positions. Viewsheds are accumulated seen areas from highways, trails, campgrounds, towns, cities, or other view locations. Examples are corridors, feature, or basin view-sheds.
Visual Resource	Visible feature of the landscape, such as land, water, vegetation, and other features that make up the scenery of an area.
Visual Resource Inventory (VRI)	An inventory of visual resources in a defined area that serves as a baseline for BLM resource management decisions. The inventory determines the visual (scenic) values within a defined area at a specific point in time. The three primary components to a visual resource inventory include: scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and distances zones.
Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Class	Recommendations resulting from the VRI that serve two purposes: 1) an inventory tool that portrays the relative, composite value of the visual resources; and 2) provide the basis for considering visual values in the RMP process. There are four VRI classes (I, II, III, and IV). Class I is assigned to those areas where a management decision has been made previously to maintain a natural landscape (the VRI only relies on visual quality without consideration of BLM management [such as requiring VRM Class I in WSAs]). Classes II, III, and IV are assigned based on a matrix combination of scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. VRI classes are informational in nature and provide the basis for considering visual values in the RMP process. They do not establish management direction and should not be used as a basis for constraining or limiting surface disturbing activities or VRM class alternatives.
Visual Resource Management (VRM)	The system by which the BLM classifies and manages scenic values and visual quality of public lands. The system is based on research that has produced ways of assessing aesthetic qualities of the landscape in objective terms. After inventory and evaluation, lands are given relative visual ratings (management classes) that determine the amount of modification allowed for the basic elements of the landscape.
Visual Resource Management Classes	Classes established through the BLM planning process in consideration of: 1) multiple-use objectives; 2) the importance of the visual values; and 3) the impacts projects may have on these values. Classes that define the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. The four classes are described below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class I provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some WSRs, and other similar areas where landscape modification activities should be restricted.

- Class II areas are those areas where changes in any of the basic elements (i.e., form, line, color, or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.
- Class III includes areas where changes in the basic elements (i.e., form, line, color, or texture) caused by a management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.
- Class IV applies to areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

Wetlands

Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: 1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (plants specifically adapted to live in wetlands); 2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric (wetland) soil; and 3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Wild And Scenic Rivers (WSRS)

A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. Types of streams include flowing bodies of water or estuaries or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. The system consists of three types of streams: 1) recreation – rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past; 2) scenic – rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads; and 3) wild – rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Wilderness

A Congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that:

- 1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable;
- 2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
- 3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
- 4) also may contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA)	Areas under study for possible inclusion as a wilderness area in the National Wilderness Preservation System.
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)	The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.
Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA)	Special management areas that are designed to protect or preserve certain qualities or uses for wildlife and plant species. The environment in these areas is unique in some respects, and it is therefore desirable to apply different management prescriptions to these areas from those of the surrounding public lands. The integration of different land management goals, objectives, and actions will be implemented to ensure that the integrity of these areas will be maintained. They will be directed toward habitat management rather than species management and encompass featured species and species diversity to ensure compliance with existing laws; prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered; and provide values and uses for the public. The BLM will implement site-specific management actions in coordination with other agencies to maintain and/or improve these unique wildlife habitat management areas.