

# DRAFT Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Lander Field Office Planning Area



## Volume 3 of 3 Glossary, Appendices and Maps

September 2011



The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

**Draft Resource Management Plan and  
Environmental Impact Statement  
for the  
Lander Field Office Planning Area**

**Volume 3 of 3  
Glossary, Appendices, and Maps**

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Lander Field Office, Wyoming**

**September 2011**

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# Glossary

**Allotment:**

An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments are Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered lands, but may also include other federally managed, state-owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment. Allotments are classified by the following:

Category I – Improve Existing Resource Conditions. Criteria for placing allotments into this category include: (1) present range condition is unsatisfactory and where range condition is expected to decline further; (2) present grazing management is not adequate; (3) the allotment has potential for medium to high vegetative production but production is low to moderate; (4) resource conflicts/controversy with livestock grazing are evident; (5) there is potential for positive economic return on public investment.

Category M – Maintain Existing Resource Conditions. Criteria for placing allotments into this category include: The category for allotments where (1) the present range condition and management are satisfactory with good to excellent condition and will be maintained under present management, or fair condition and improving with improvement expected to continue under present management, or opportunities for BLM management are limited because percentage of public land is low or acreage of public lands is small; (2) the allotment has a potential for moderate or high vegetative production and is producing at or near this potential; (3) there are no significant land-use resource conflicts with livestock grazing; (4) land ownership status may or may not limit management opportunities; (5) opportunities for positive economic return from public investment may exist.

Category C – Custodial Management. Criteria for placing allotments into this category include: The category for allotments where (1) present range condition is not in a downward trend; (2) the allotment has a low vegetative production potential and is producing near this level; (3) there may or may not be limited conflicts between livestock grazing and other resources; (4) present management is satisfactory or is the only logical management under existing conditions; and (5) opportunities for a positive economic return on public investments do not exist.

**Analysis Area:**

Any lands, regardless of jurisdiction, for which the BLM synthesizes, analyzes, and interprets data for information that relates to planning for BLM-administered lands.

**Animal Unit Month:**

A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow unit or its equivalent for 1 month (approximately 800 pounds of forage).

**Appropriate Management Response:**

Any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit objectives. Typically, the Appropriate Management Response (AMR) ranges across a spectrum of tactical options

(from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using Fire Management Unit strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.

**Areas Administratively Unavailable to Leasing:**

BLM Handbook H-1601-1 – Land Use Planning, Appendix C uses the term areas closed to oil and gas leasing. Areas administratively unavailable or closed to oil and gas leasing are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive oil and gas leasing stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by making the areas administratively unavailable to oil and gas leasing for the life of the plan. Lands currently under lease would remain leased for the life of the leases. After expiration of these leases, no lands would be available for lease.

**Authorized Officer:**

A manager/supervisor at a BLM Field Office, District Office, or State Office who has been delegated to take action pursuant to the various provisions of Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations – Public Lands.

**Authorized Surface-disturbing Activities:**

Public Land resource uses/activities that disturb the endemic vegetation, surface geologic features, and/or surface/near surface soil resources beyond ambient site conditions that are permitted by previously-approved management actions. Examples of surface-disturbing activities include: construction of well pads and roads, pits and reservoirs, pipelines and powerlines, and most types of vegetation treatments (e.g., prescribed fire, etc.). NOTE: Some resource uses, commodity production and other actions that remove vegetative growth, geologic materials, or soils (e.g., livestock grazing, wildlife browsing, timber harvesting, sand and gravel pits, etc.) are allowed, and in some instances formally authorized, on the public lands. When utilized as a land use restriction, (e.g., No Surface-Disturbing Activities), this phrase prohibits all resource use or activity, except those uses and activities that are specifically authorized, likely to disturb the endemic vegetation, surface geologic features, and surface/near surface soils.

**Big Game Crucial Winter Range:**

Winter habitat on which a wildlife species depends for survival. Because of severe weather conditions or other limiting factors, no alternative habitat would be available.

**Borrow Material:**

A term used in conjunction with construction. The term refers to unprocessed material excavated from a borrow pit for use as fill at another location.

**Carbon Dioxide Flood:**

A carbon dioxide flood is an enhanced oil recovery technique that injects fluid into the reservoir. When carbon dioxide is injected, it mixes with the oil and the two compounds dissolve into one another. The injected carbon dioxide acts as a solvent to overcome forces that trap oil in tiny rock pores and helps sweep the immobile oil left behind after the effectiveness of water injection decreases, resulting in increased oil production.

**Casual Use:**

Activities that do not cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public land or resources or existing improvements on that land are considered casual use.

**Cheatgrass:**

Cheatgrass is an annual grass that forms tufts up to 2 feet tall. The leaves and sheaths are covered in short, soft hairs. The flowers occur as drooping, open, terminal clusters that can have a greenish, red, or purple hue. Flowering occurs in the early summer. These annual plants will germinate in fall or spring (fall is more common), and senescence usually occurs in summer. Cheatgrass invades rangelands, pastures, prairies, and other open areas. Cheatgrass has the potential to completely alter the ecosystems it invades. It can completely replace native vegetation and change fire regimes and is most problematic in areas of the western United States with lower precipitation levels.

**Class II Wells:**

Injection wells that are:

- (1) Brought to the surface in connection with natural gas storage operations, or conventional oil or natural gas production, and may be commingled with wastewaters from gas plants, which are an integral part of production operations, unless those waters are classified as a hazardous waste at the time of injection.
- (2) For enhanced recovery of oil or natural gas.
- (3) For storage of hydrocarbons that are liquid at standard temperature and pressure.

**Class I Wells:**

Injection wells that are:

- (1) Wells used by generators of hazardous waste or owners or operators of hazardous waste management facilities to inject hazardous waste beneath the lowermost formation containing, within ¼ mile of the wellbore, an underground source of drinking water.
- (2) Other industrial and municipal disposal wells that inject fluid beneath the lowermost formation containing, within ¼ mile of the wellbore, an underground source of drinking water.
- (3) Radioactive waste disposal wells that inject fluid below the lowermost formation containing, within ¼ mile of the wellbore, an underground source of drinking water.

**Closed:**

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

**Commodity:**

An economic good, such as a product of agriculture or mining.

**Commodity Production:**

The materialization of an economic good, such as a product of agriculture or mining.

**Communication Site Management Plan:**

A plan that provides for effective administration of a communications site. The site plan defines the principles and technical standards adopted in the site designation. The site plan

provides direction for the day-to-day operations of the site in connection with the lease. The site plan shall delineate the types of uses that are appropriate at this site and the technical and administrative requirements for management of the site. The site plan should reflect the complexity of the current situation and the anticipated demand for the site.

**Comprehensive Grazing Management Strategy:**

A strategy that incorporates a documented grazing prescription that tailors the timing and intensity (utilization) of grazing to specific vegetation objectives. The grazing prescription is clearly linked to the physiological requirements of the species intensified in the objectives. Objectives are established for locations preferred by livestock. A Comprehensive Grazing Management strategy gives specific attention to the critical growing season on upland ranges and the hot season in riparian-wetland habitat. The kind and class of livestock along with the season of use will affect the timing and intensity requirements.

**Comprehensive Weed Management Plan:**

A plan for controlling invasive plant species that incorporates integrated weed management techniques and accounts for pertinent considerations, such as management actions and allocations affecting weeds.

**Congressionally Designated Trails:**

In 1968, the National Trails System Act (NTSA) (Public Law 90-543) provided for the development of a national system of trails in urban, rural, and wilderness settings. Originally, the NTSA specified three categories of national trails: National Scenic Trails (NSTs), recreation trails, and connecting or side trails. In 1978, historic trails were added as another category. Today, only Congress can designate National Historic Trails (NHTs) and NSTs. Congressionally Designated Trails in the planning area include the Continental Divide NST and the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express NHTs. Management of Congressionally Designated Trails is guided by Instruction Memorandum 2009-215 (Planning for Special Designations within the National System of Public Lands).

**Controlled Surface Use:**

Surface occupancy or use will be restricted or prohibited unless the operator and surface managing agency arrive at an acceptable plan for mitigation of anticipated impacts. Identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. Controlled surface use is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the No Surface Occupancy or Timing Limitation Stipulations.

**Cooperative Monitoring:**

Joint monitoring by more than one entity.

**Core Area:**

Executive Order 2008-2, issued by the Governor of Wyoming, delineated a Core Area to protect populations of greater sage-grouse in the state. The Order also outlines restrictions on the density of future development and other human activities that limit impacts to sage-grouse populations.

**Cultural Resource Inventory Levels:**

A three-tiered process for discovering, recording, and evaluating cultural resources.

(a) Class I – A review of existing literature and oral informant data combined with an analysis of a specific geographic region (e.g., an area of potential effect, drainage basin, resource area, etc.).

(b) Class II – A sampling survey usually aimed at developing and testing a predictive model of cultural resource distribution.

(c) Class III – An on-the-ground survey to discover, record, and evaluate cultural resources within a specific geographic area (e.g., usually an area of potential effect for a proposed undertaking).

**Decibel (dB):**

A unit of measurement of the loudness or strength of a signal. One decibel is considered the smallest difference in sound level that the human ear can discern. Decibels are a relative measurement derived from two signal levels; a reference input level and an observed output level. A decibel is the logarithm of the ratio of the two levels. One Bel is when the output signal is 10x that of the input and one decibel is 1/10th of a Bel.

**Designated Roads and Trails:**

Specific roads and trails on which some type of motorized vehicle use is allowed, either seasonally or year-long.

**Desired Plant Community:**

Of the several plant communities that may occupy a site, the desired plant community is the community that has been identified through a management plan to best meet the plan's objectives for the site. At a minimum, it must protect the site.

**Disruptive Activities:**

Those public land resource uses/activities that are likely to alter the behavior, displace, or cause excessive stress to existing animal or human populations occurring at a specific location and/or time. In this context, disruptive activity(ies) refers to those actions that alter behavior or cause the displacement of individuals such that reproductive success is adversely affected, or an individual's physical ability to cope with environmental stress is compromised. This term does not apply to the physical disturbance of the land surface, vegetation, or features. Examples of disruptive activities may include noise, human foot or vehicle traffic, domestic livestock roundups, or other human presence regardless of the activity. When administered as a land use restriction (e.g., No Disruptive Activities), this term may prohibit or limit the physical presence of sound above ambient levels, light beyond background levels, and/or the nearness of people and their activities. The term is commonly used in conjunction with protecting wildlife during crucial life stages (e.g., breeding, nesting, birthing, etc.), although it could apply to any resource value on the public lands. The use of this land use restriction is not intended to prohibit all activity or authorized uses.

**Downspacing:**

Decreasing the number of oil and/or gas wells in a given area.

**Ecological Integrity:**

The condition of an unimpaired ecosystem as measured by combined chemical, physical (including physical habitat), and biological attributes.

**Ecological Site:**

A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics, differing from other kinds of land in that the site has the ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and to respond to management. Ecological sites are defined and described with information about soil, species composition, and annual production.

**Ephemeral Stream:**

A stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, and whose channel is at all times above the water table. Confusion over the distinction between intermittent and ephemeral streams may be minimized by applying Meinzer's suggestion that the term "ephemeral" be arbitrarily restricted to streams that do not flow continuously for at least 30 days (Prichard et al. 1998). Ephemeral streams support riparian-wetland areas when streamside vegetation reflects the presence of permanent subsurface water.

**Exceedance:**

An event in which measurements of ambient air quality are above the National Ambient Air Quality standard (NAAQS) or Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) standard set for a particular pollutant. For example, an annual average nitrogen dioxide value of 110 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) is an exceedance of both the NAAQS and Wyoming DEQ annual average standard for nitrogen dioxide of 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

**Exception:**

A one time exemption for a particular site within an oil and gas leasehold. Exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis and the stipulation continues to apply to all other sites within the leasehold.

**Exclusion Areas:**

An area on public lands where a certain activity is prohibited to insure protection of other resource values present on the site. The term is frequently used in reference to lands and realty actions and proposals (e.g., rights-of-way), but is not unique to the lands and realty program.

**Extensive Recreation Management Areas:**

These are areas where dispersed recreation is encouraged and where visitors have a freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint.

**Fire Management Plan:**

Identifies appropriate strategies to achieve resource objectives. Identifies fire policy, objectives, and prescribed actions; may include maps, charts, tables, and statistical data.

**Fire Regime Condition Class:**

A classification of the amount of departure from the natural fire regime. The departure results in changes to one or more of the following ecological components: vegetation characteristics (e.g., species composition, structural stages, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern), fuel composition, fire frequency, severity, and pattern, and other associated disturbance (e.g., insect and disease mortality, grazing, and drought). The three condition classes are listed below.

(a) Condition Class 1

- The historic disturbance regime is largely intact and functioning (e.g., has not missed a fire return interval).
- Potential intensity and severity of fire within historic range.
- Effects of disease and insects within historic range.
- Hydrologic functions within normal historic range.
- Vegetation composition and structure resilient to disturbances.
- Nonnative species currently not present or to a limited extent.
- Low risk of loss for key ecosystem components.

(b) Condition Class 2

- Moderate alterations to historic disturbance regime evident (e.g., missed one or more fire return intervals).
- Effects of disease and insects pose an increased risk of loss of key community components.
- Riparian-wetland areas and associated hydrologic function show measurable signs of adverse departure from historic conditions.
- Vegetation composition and structure shifted toward conditions less resilient to disturbances.
- Populations of nonnative species may have increased, increasing the risk of further increases following disturbance.

(c) Condition Class 3

- Historic disturbance regime significantly altered; historic disturbance processes and impacts may be precluded (e.g., missed several fire return intervals).
- Effects of disturbance (fire, insects, and disease) may cause significant or complete loss of key community components.
- Hydrologic functions may be adversely altered; high potential for increased sedimentation and reduced streamflows.
- Invasive, nonnative species may be common and in some cases the dominant species on the landscape; disturbance will likely increase both the dominance and geographic extent of these invasive species.
- Highly altered vegetation composition and structure predisposes community to disturbance events outside the range of historic availability; disturbance may have effects not observed or measured before.

**Fire Return Interval:**

The number of years between two successive fire events at a specific site or area.

**Flaring/Venting:**

The controlled burning (flare) or release (vent) of natural gas that cannot be processed for sale or use because of technical or economic reasons.

**Floodplain Connectivity:**

Maintenance of lateral, longitudinal, and vertical pathways for biological and hydrological processes in the floodplain. Examples of failures to maintain connectivity could include culverts or levees that restrict flow in the floodplain and that focus overbank flow into the channel.

**Flushing Livestock:**

Flushing livestock is the holding of livestock in an invasive, nonnative plant species seed-free area where they are fed an invasive, nonnative plant species seed-free ration for 72 hours, thus flushing invasive, nonnative plant species seed from the animals' digestive systems.

**Foreground-Middle Ground Zone:**

An area that can be seen from a travel route for a distance of 3 miles (foreground) to 5 miles (middle ground) where management activities might be viewed. A distance from 5 to 15 miles is called the Background Zone and the area beyond 15 miles is called the Seldom-Seen Zone.

**Geologic Resources:**

Resources associated with the scientific study of the Earth, including its composition, structure, physical properties, and history. Geologic resources commonly include the study of minerals (mineralogy) and rocks (petrology), the structure of the Earth (structural geology) and volcanic phenomena (volcanology), and landforms and the processes that produce them (geomorphology and glaciology).

**Goal:**

A broad statement of a desired outcome. Goals are usually not quantifiable and may not have established timeframes for achievement.

**Guzzler:**

A water development for wildlife.

**Heavy Equipment Use:**

This phrase is used in fire management and is relative to limiting fire suppression tactics. In this context it refers to not using dozers, skidders, or graders in areas where important resource values are in need of protection. Fire engines and water tenders used during suppression activities would be allowed.

**Held by Production:**

Leases that become productive and do not terminate until all wells on the lease have ceased production.

**Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record:**

The Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) is an integral component of the federal government's commitment to historic preservation. The program documents important architectural, engineering and industrial sites throughout the United States and its territories. A complete set of HABS/HAER documentation, consisting of measured drawings, large-format photographs, and written history plays a key role in accomplishing the mission of creating an archive of American

architecture and engineering and in better understanding what historic resources tell us about America's diverse ethnic and cultural heritage. To insure that such evidence is not lost to future generations, the HABS/HAER Collections are archived at the Library of Congress, where they are made available to the public.

**Hot Season:**

The part of the grazing season that occurs during the hot part of the summer between June 15 and August 31.

**Hummocking:**

A small, rounded or cone-shaped, low hill or a surface of other small, irregular shapes.

**Impact Analysis for Planning 2000 Model:**

Impact Analysis for Planning (IMPLAN) 2000 Model is a regional economic model that provides a mathematical accounting of the flow of money, goods, and services through a region's economy. The model provides estimates of how a specific economic activity translates into jobs and income for the region. It includes the "ripple effect" (also called the "multiplier effect") of changes in economic sectors that may not be directly impacted by management actions, but are linked to industries that are directly impacted. In IMPLAN, these ripple effects are termed indirect impacts (for changes in industries that sell inputs to the industries that are directly affected) and induced impacts (for changes in household spending as household income increases or decreases due to the changes in production).

**Important Wildlife Habitat:**

Big game crucial winter range, big game parturition areas, designated critical migration corridors, sage-grouse breeding and nesting areas, raptor concentration areas, and critical fish spawning areas.

**Integrated Pest Management:**

Ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism.

**Integrated Weed Management:**

The use of all appropriate weed control measures, including fire, as well as mechanical, chemical, biological, and cultural techniques, in an organized and coordinated manner on a site-specific basis.

**Intermittent Stream:**

A stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas. Confusion over the distinction between intermittent and ephemeral streams may be minimized by applying Meinzer's suggestion that the term "intermittent" be arbitrarily restricted to streams that flow continuously for periods of at least 30 days (Prichard et al. 1998).

**Land Tenure:**

To improve the manageability of the BLM-administered lands and improve their usefulness to the public, the BLM has numerous authorities for "repositioning" lands into a more consolidated pattern, disposing of lands, and entering into cooperative management

agreements. These land-pattern improvements are completed primarily through the use of land exchanges, but also through land sales, jurisdictional transfers to other agencies, and through the use of cooperative management agreements and leases. These ownership or jurisdictional changes are referred to as “Land Tenure Adjustments.”

**Laramide Orogeny:**

The Laramide orogeny (orogeny is the Greek word for mountain building) was a period of mountain building in western North America which began during the Late Cretaceous period, 70 to 80 million years ago, and ended 35 to 55 million years ago. The major feature that was created by this orogeny was the Rocky Mountains, but evidence of this period is found from Alaska to Mexico and as far east as the Black Hills. The phenomenon is named for the Laramie Mountains of eastern Wyoming.

**Leasable Minerals:**

Those minerals or materials subject to lease by the federal government under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium, and sodium minerals; oil and gas, as well as geothermal resources.

**Locatable Minerals:**

Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of metallic minerals such as gold, silver, and other uncommon materials not subject to lease or sale.

**Mechanized Travel:**

Moving by means of a mechanical device, such as a bicycle, and not powered by a motor.

**Mineral Materials:**

Materials such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws, but can be acquired under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended. Also known as salable minerals.

**Mineral Withdrawal:**

A formal order that withholds federal lands and minerals from entry under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended, and closes the area to mineral location (i.e., staking mining claims) and development.

**Mitigation:**

- (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- (c) Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
- (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**Modern Intrusions:**

Includes not only the intrusion but also related impacts, such as a water well. Related impacts could include livestock trails to the well and un-reclaimed roads leading to it.

**Motorized Use:**

Use of public lands by means of vehicles that are propelled by motors, such as cars, trucks, off-highway vehicles (OHVs), motorcycles, etc.

**Multiple Use Reservoir:**

A human-created lake or pond with a combination of balanced uses, including, but not limited to, recreation, livestock watering, watershed health, and wildlife and fish.

**Native Species Status:**

Native Species Status (NSS) refers to the population status of species native to the area in which their habitats occur. The NSSs are divided into the following categories:

## NSS1

- Populations are greatly restricted or declining, extirpation appears possible; or ongoing significant loss of habitat.

## NSS2

- Populations are declining, extirpation appears possible; habitat is restricted or vulnerable, but no recent or ongoing significant loss; species may be sensitive to human disturbance.

## OR

- Populations are declining or restricted in numbers and/or distribution, extirpation is not imminent; ongoing significant loss of habitat.

## NSS3

- Populations are greatly restricted or declining, extirpation appears possible; habitat is not restricted, vulnerable, but no loss; species is not sensitive to human disturbance.

## OR

- Populations are declining or restricted in numbers and/or distribution, extirpation is not imminent; habitat is restricted or vulnerable, but no recent or ongoing significant loss; species may be sensitive to human disturbance.

## OR

- Species is widely distributed; population status or trends are unknown, but are suspected to be stable; ongoing significant loss of habitat.

## NSS4

- Populations are greatly restricted or declining, extirpation appears possible; habitat is stable and not restricted.

OR

- Populations are declining or restricted in numbers and/or distribution, extirpation is not imminent; habitat is not restricted, vulnerable, but no loss; species is not sensitive to human disturbance.

OR

- Species is widely distributed, population status or trends are unknown, but are suspected to be stable; habitat is restricted or vulnerable, but no recent or ongoing significant loss; species may be sensitive to human disturbance.

OR

- Populations that are stable or increasing and not restricted in numbers and/or distribution; ongoing significant loss of habitat.

### **Natural Fire Regime:**

The general classification of the role fire would play across a landscape in the absence of modern human mechanical intervention, but including the influence of aboriginal burning (National Wildfire Coordinating Group 2003).

### **Necessary Tasks:**

Temporary excursions leaving existing vehicular routes are permitted only to accomplish necessary tasks. Necessary tasks are actions that support commercial or industrial uses of public lands, which need to be accomplished by a person or organization seeking or holding authorization from the BLM to build, maintain, or place infrastructure necessary to achieve planning goals and objectives, or exercise valid existing rights. Tasks associated with such activities typically require motorized vehicles to haul materials, tools, and equipment to the project site.

The majority of necessary tasks will occur as a result of a BLM authorization. At the time of project authorization, offices will assume and analyze a level of motorized vehicle use for construction and maintenance. It is feasible that a new road will develop as a result of the exemption, and therefore offices should consider if this new road will be open to the public, only for administrative access, or reclaimed. Additional mitigation measures may be necessary to reduce motorized vehicle impacts. Mitigation measures pertaining to the necessary task exemption will be included in the terms and conditions, Conditions of Approval, or stipulations. Monitoring and evaluation will be conducted at these known locations.

Sometimes necessary tasks (as defined above) are and will be accomplished without formal written approval or in advance of receiving an authorization. Cross-country OHV travel in these cases is authorized so long as resource damage does not occur. While generally defined, the determination of whether resource damage has occurred is left to the discretion of field managers and law enforcement personnel. For this reason, project proponents are encouraged to contact their local field offices prior to using OHVs cross-country, so as to ensure use will not cause resource damage. In addition, project proponents must notify the BLM in writing when and where cross-country travel has occurred prior to an authorization. This can be done at the application phase, but must occur prior to final authorization.

Other Authorizations and Uses:

It is recognized that in many cases, cross-country motorized vehicle use is the most efficient tool for operators and industry to achieve BLM (Planning/Resource/Statutory) objectives and requirements. Livestock herding, scientific studies, habitat treatments, etc., are all examples of actions that may require cross-country motorized vehicle travel. In these cases, the project proponent is expected to submit a request for exemption from travel management regulations. The request for exemption will contain the following elements:

1. Who? Name of company, individuals, agency, and/or other entities traveling cross-country.
2. Description of proposed action and why the action is necessary to achieve agency objectives?
3. Type of motorized vehicle to be used and description of how the vehicle will be used for the proposed action?
4. A map with specific areas where projected cross-country travel is necessary?
5. Season, frequency, and duration of cross-country travel.
6. Why this action can't be accomplished using nonmotorized conveyances (e.g., horses)?
7. Expected outcome if this authorization is granted? Expected outcome if this authorization is not granted?
8. Methods and measures to minimize resource damage?
9. Other information.

Waivers/authorizations will be conditional upon consistency with Land Use and Activity Level planning decisions and other BLM objectives. The project proponent is encouraged to be as detailed as possible in the application for exception. The BLM will consider an application for exception complete when the information provided is sufficient to facilitate impact analysis, enforcement, monitoring, and evaluation. Project proponents are encouraged to submit the waiver request in tandem with other applications, renewals, or proposals, but the agency will accept the applications at all times. Waiver applications will not be accepted for individuals that are being actively investigated for violation of a OHV rule. Waivers and authorizations will not be granted to individuals who have been convicted of an OHV violation.

Any and all individuals conducting cross-country travel under such a waiver or authorization will carry a copy of the waiver and conditions associated with the waiver. The project proponent associated with the waiver will be required on an annual basis to provide an 'actual occurrence' report that documents the location (legal description), time, and date of each and all incidents where motorized vehicles were used to travel cross-country or off-road.

Failure to adequately document all occurrence of cross-country or off-road travel will result in termination of the waiver. Upon evaluation and monitoring, if it is determined that unacceptable conditions or resource damage is occurring, the waiver may be revoked. Additionally, if an evaluation shows no increased progress towards objectives and/or requirements (part 2 of the request information) then the waiver can be revoked.

### **No Surface Occupancy:**

The term "no surface occupancy" is used in two ways. It is used in one way to define a no surface occupancy (NSO) area where no surface-disturbing activities of any nature or for any purpose would be allowed. For example, construction or the permanent or long-term placement of structures or other facilities for any purpose would be prohibited in an NSO area.

The other way the "no surface occupancy" term is used is as a stipulation or mitigation requirement for controlling or prohibiting selected land uses or activities that would conflict

with other activities, uses, or values in a given area. When used in this way, the NSO stipulation or mitigation requirement is applied to prohibit one or more specific types of land and resource development activities or surface uses in an area, while other – perhaps even similar – types of activities or uses (for other purposes) would be allowed. For example, protecting important rock art relics from destruction may require closing the area to the staking of mining claims and surface mining, cross-country vehicle travel, construction or long-term placement of structures or pipelines, powerlines, general purpose roads, and livestock grazing. Conversely, the construction of fences to protect the rock art from vandalism or from trampling or breakage by livestock, an access road or trail, and other visitor facilities to provide interpretation and opportunity for public enjoyment of the rock art would be allowed. Further, if there were interest in development of leasable minerals in the area, leases for oil and gas, coal, and so forth, could be issued with a “no surface occupancy” stipulation or mitigation requirement for the rock art site, which would still allow access to the leasable minerals from adjacent lands and underground. The term “no surface occupancy” has no relationship or relevance to the presence of people in an area.

**Objective:**

A description of a desired condition for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established timeframes for achievement.

**Occupied Lek:**

A lek that has been active during at least one strutting season within the last 10 years.

**Off-highway Vehicle:**

Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle being used for emergency purposes; (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Authorized Officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) vehicles in official use; and (5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

**Off-highway Vehicle Management Designations:**

Designations apply to all OHVs regardless of the purposes for which they are being used. Emergency vehicles are excluded. The OHV designation definitions have been developed in cooperation with representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, and the BLM state and field office personnel. The BLM recognizes the differences between OHVs and over-snow vehicles in terms of use and impact. Therefore, travel by over-snow vehicles will be permitted off existing routes and in all open or limited areas (unless otherwise specifically limited or closed to over-snow vehicles) if they are operated in a responsible manner without damaging the vegetation or harming wildlife.

**Closed:**

Vehicle travel is prohibited in the area. Access by means other than motorized vehicle is permitted. This designation is used if closure to all vehicular use is necessary to protect resources, to ensure visitor safety, or to reduce conflicts.

**Open:**

Vehicle travel is permitted in the area (both on and off roads) if the vehicle is operated responsibly in a manner not causing, or unlikely to cause, significant undue damage to or disturbance of the soil, wildlife, wildlife habitats, improvements, cultural or vegetative resources, or other authorized uses of the public lands. These areas are used for intensive OHV use where there are no compelling resource needs, user conflicts, or public safety issues to warrant limiting cross-country travel.

Limited:

(a) Vehicle travel is permitted only on roads and vehicle routes which were in existence prior to the date of designation in the *Federal Register*. Vehicle travel off of existing vehicle routes is permitted only to accomplish necessary tasks and only if such travel does not result in resource damage. Random travel from existing vehicle routes is not allowed. Creation of new routes or extensions and/or widening of existing routes are not allowed without prior written agency approval.

(b) Vehicle travel is permitted only on roads and vehicle routes designated by the BLM. In areas where final designation has not been completed, vehicle travel is limited to existing roads and vehicle routes as described above. Designations are posted as follows:

1. Vehicle route is open to vehicular travel.
2. Vehicle route is closed to vehicular travel.

(c) Vehicle travel is limited by number or type of vehicle. Designations are posted as follows:

1. Vehicle route limited to four-wheel drive vehicles only.
2. Vehicle route limited to motorbikes only.
3. Area is closed to over-snow vehicles.

(d) Vehicle travel is limited to licensed or permitted use.

(e) Vehicle travel is limited to time or season of use.

(f) Where specialized restrictions are necessary to meet resource management objectives, other limitations also may be developed.

The BLM may place other limitations, as necessary, to protect other resources, particularly in areas that motorized OHV enthusiasts use intensely or where they participate in competitive events.

**Offsite Mitigation:**

Mitigation located away from the adversely affected site.

**Open:**

Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

**Overgrazing:**

Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of the forage plants and creates deterioration of the grazing lands (Valentine 1990).

**Over-snow Vehicle:**

An over-snow vehicle is a motor vehicle that is designed for use over snow that runs on a track or tracks and/or a ski or skis. An over-snow vehicle does not include machinery used strictly for the grooming of nonmotorized trails.

**Perennial Stream:**

A stream that flows continuously. Perennial streams generally are associated with a water table in the localities through which they flow (Prichard et al. 1998).

**Pest:**

With the exception of vascular plants classified as invasive nonnative plant species, a pest can be any biological life form that poses a threat to human or ecological health and welfare. For the purposes of this planning effort, an “animal pest” is any vertebrate or invertebrate animal subject to control by Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). APHIS is currently the BLM’s authorized agent for controlling “animal pests.” For this reason, “animal pests” will be considered a subset of Pest.

**Planned Ignition:**

The intentional initiation of a wildland fire by hand-held, mechanical, or aerial device, where the distance and timing between ignition lines or points and the sequence of igniting them is determined by environmental conditions (weather, fuel, topography), firing technique, and other factors which influence fire behavior and fire effects (see *Prescribed Fire*).

**Planning Area:**

A geographic area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

**Potential Fossil Yield Classification:**

Geologic units in the planning area are classified according to the Potential Fossil Yield Classification, usually at the formation or member level, according to the probability of yielding resources of concern to land managers, primarily vertebrate fossils. The classification uses a ranking of 1 through 5, with Class 5 assigned to units with a high potential for fossils. Within the planning area, Class 4 and Class 5 geologic formations account for approximately 50 percent of the total acreage, including all ownerships. About 35 percent of public land in the planning area is underlain by Class 4 and Class 5 formations. The classifications are described as below:

Class 1. Igneous and metamorphic geologic units, or units with highly disturbed preservational environments that are not likely to contain recognizable fossil remains. Management concern is negligible for Class 1 resources and mitigation requirements are rare.

Class 2. Sedimentary geologic units that are not likely to contain vertebrate fossils or significant nonvertebrate fossils. Management concern is low for Class 2 resources and mitigation requirements are not likely.

Class 3. Fossiliferous sedimentary geologic units where fossil content varies in significance, abundance, and predictable occurrence, or units of unknown fossil potential. Management concern may extend across the entire range of management. Ground-disturbing activities require sufficient assessment to determine whether significant resources occur in the area of the proposed action.

Class 4. Class 4 units are Class 5 units with a lowered risk of human-caused adverse impacts or lowered risk of natural degradation. Ground-disturbing activities require assessment to determine whether significant resources occur in the area of the proposed action and whether those actions will impact the resource. Mitigation may include full monitoring of significant localities.

Class 5. Highly fossiliferous geologic units that regularly produce vertebrate fossils or significant nonvertebrate fossils and that are at risk of natural degradation or human-caused adverse impacts. Class 5 areas receive the highest level of management focus. Mitigation of ground-disturbing actions is required and may be intense. Areas of special interest may be designated and intensely managed.

**Potential Natural Community:**

The biotic community that would become established if all successional sequences were completed without interference by humans under the present environmental conditions. Natural disturbances are inherent in development. Potential natural community includes naturalized nonnative species.

**Prairie Dog “Complex”:**

Defined as a cluster of two or more prairie dog towns within 3 kilometers of each other (Clark and Stromberg 1987), and bounded by either natural or artificial barriers (Whicker and Detling 1988), which effectively isolate one cluster of colonies from interacting/interchanging with another. Prairie dogs may commonly move among colonies of a cluster, and thereby foster reproductive/genetic viability, but exhibit little emigration/immigration between clusters. A cluster may include some currently unoccupied, through physically suitable (i.e., vegetation, soils, topography, etc.), land immediately adjacent to occupied colonies that support other prairie dog-associated (ecosystem function), obligate or facultative species (e.g., swift fox, mountain plover, burrowing owl, etc.).

**Prescribed Burning:**

Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state under specified environmental conditions that allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area, and at the same time, to produce the fire intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

**Prescribed Fire:**

A wildland fire originating from a planned ignition to meet specific objectives identified in a written, approved, prescribed fire plan for which National Environmental Policy Act requirements (where applicable) have been met prior to ignition.

**Priority Fish Species:**

Species considered to be sport fish and native species.

**Produced Water:**

Groundwater removed to facilitate the extraction of minerals, such as coal, oil, or gas.

**Proper Functioning Condition:**

The on-the-ground condition of a riparian-wetland area, referring to how well the physical processes are functioning and the state of resiliency that will allow a riparian-wetland area to hold together during a high-flow event, sustaining that system's ability to produce values related to both physical and biological attributes.

**Proper Grazing:**

Proper grazing is the practice of managing forage use by grazing animals at a sustainable level that maintains rangeland health. Proper grazing will maintain or increase plant cover, including residue, which acts to slow down or reduce runoff, increase water infiltration, and keep erosion and sedimentation at or above acceptable levels within the potential of ecological sites within a given geographic area (e.g., watershed, grazing allotment, etc.).

**Range Improvement Project:**

A structural improvement requiring placement or construction to facilitate management or control distribution and movement of grazing or browsing animals. Such improvements may include, but are not limited to, fences, wells, troughs, reservoirs, water catchments, pipelines, and cattleguards. The project also may include a practice or treatment which improves rangeland condition and or resource production for multiple use. Nonstructural types of projects may include, but are not limited to, seeding and plant control through chemical, mechanical, and biological means or prescribed burning.

**Rangeland:**

Land on which the native vegetation is predominantly grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing. This includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially when routine management of that vegetation is accomplished mainly through manipulation of grazing. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, most deserts, tundra, alpine communities, coastal marshes, and wet meadows.

**Rangeland Health:**

The degree to which the integrity of the soil and ecological processes of rangeland ecosystems are sustained.

**Raptor:**

Bird of prey with sharp talons and a strongly curved beak, such as hawks, falcons, owls, vultures, and eagles.

**Recreational Outcomes:**

The beneficial and non-beneficial consequences (i.e., outcomes) of the management and use of recreation and related amenity resources and programs (Driver 2008).

**Recreational Use:**

The public is allowed to pursue recreational (e.g., picking up big game kills, camping, parking) activities up to 300 feet away from roads and trails, as long as such activities do not cause resource damage or create new roads or extend existing roads. The existing road system

and this cross-country travel allowance is designed to accommodate the needs of recreational activities on the public lands. This applies only to all “Limited” travel designations.

**Recreation Management Areas:**

Units within a planning area that guide recreation management on public lands having similar recreation related issues and concerns. There are two types of recreation management areas; extensive and special.

**Extensive Recreation Management Areas:** These are areas where dispersed recreation is encouraged and where visitors have a freedom of recreational choice with minimal regulatory constraint.

**Special Recreation Management Areas:** These are areas where congressionally recognized recreation values exist or where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed.

**Responsible Official:**

The BLM official who has been delegated authority to approve an action by signing a Record of Decision in the matter of an Environmental Impact Statement, or Decision Records in the matter of an Environmental Assessment.

**Restricted Disposal:**

Parcels identified for restricted disposal may be disposed of under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, by exchange, may limit the disposal to a particular type of entity capable of preserving the resource values, or may include the use of covenants in the deed or land sale patent to ensure the resource values are protected.

**Rights-of-Way:**

A rights-of-way (ROW) grant is an authorization to use a specific piece of public land for a specific project, such as roads, pipelines, transmission lines, and communication sites. The grant authorizes rights and privileges for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time.

**Rights-of-Way Avoidance Areas:**

Areas where adverse routing factors exist. ROWs either will not be granted in these areas, or, if granted, will be subject to stringent terms and conditions. In other words, ROWs would be restricted (but not necessarily prohibited) in these avoidance areas.

**Rights-of-Way Exclusion Area:**

Areas with sensitive resource values where ROW and 302 permits, leases, and easements would not be authorized.

**Riparian Areas:**

Riparian areas are a form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. These areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent surface or subsurface water influence. Lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, playas, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels, are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not exhibit the presence of vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil.

**Riparian-Wetland Functionality Classification:**

**Functional At-Risk:** Riparian-wetland areas that are in functional condition, but an existing soil, water, or vegetation attribute makes them susceptible to degradation.

**Proper Functioning Condition (PFC):** A riparian or wetland area is considered to be in PFC when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to do the following:

- Dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality.
- Filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development.
- Improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge.
- Develop root masses that stabilize stream banks against cutting action.
- Develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitats and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses.
- Support greater biodiversity.

**Nonfunctional:** Riparian or wetland areas that clearly are not providing adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy associated with high flows and thus are not reducing erosion, improving water quality, and so on, as listed above. The absence of certain physical attributes, such as a floodplain where one should be, are indicators of nonfunctioning conditions.

**Unknown:** Riparian or wetland areas that the BLM lacks sufficient information on to make any form of determination.

**Salable Minerals:**

*See Mineral Materials.*

**Seasonal Ranges:**

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has identified various ranges for big game species. These ranges are defined as follows:

**Summer or Spring-Summer-Fall:** A population or portion of a population of animals use the documented habitats within this range annually from the end of previous winter to the onset of persistent winter conditions.

**Severe Winter Relief:** A documented survival range, which may or may not be considered a crucial range area as defined above. It is used to a great extent, but only in extremely severe winters. It may lack habitat characteristics that would make it attractive or capable of supporting major portions of the population during normal years, but is used by and allows at least a significant portion of the population to survive the occasional extremely severe winter.

Winter: A population or portion of a population of animals annually use the documented suitable habitat sites within this range in substantial numbers during the winter period only.

Winter/Year-long: A population or a portion of a population of animals makes general use of the documented suitable habitat sites within this range on a year-round basis. During the winter months there is a significant influx of additional animals into the area from other seasonal ranges.

Year-long: A population or substantial portion of a population of animals makes general use of the suitable documented habitat sites within the range on a year-round basis. On occasion, animals may leave the area under severe conditions.

Parturition Areas: Documented birthing areas commonly used by females. They include calving areas, fawning areas, and lambing grounds. These areas may be used as nurseries by some big game species.

**Section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act:**

“The head of any federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed federal or federally assisted undertaking in any state and the head of any federal department or independent agency having authority to license any undertaking shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The head of any such federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation established under Title II of this Act a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking” (16 United States Code 47 df).

**Sensitive Sites or Resources:**

Sensitive sites or resources refer to significant cultural resources that are, or may be eligible, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Sensitive Species:**

Species designated as sensitive by the BLM State Director include species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, live in unique habitats, or require special management. BLM Manual 6840 provides policy and guidance for special status species management. The BLM Wyoming Sensitive Species Policy and List are provided in a memorandum updated annually. Primary goals of the BLM Wyoming policy include maintaining vulnerable species and habitat components in functional BLM ecosystems and preventing a need for species listing under the Endangered Species Act.

**Seral Stage:**

One of a series of plant communities that follows another in time on a specific ecological site.

**Setting:**

Setting is the physical environment of a historic property and how the property evokes a sense of feeling and association with past events. Accordingly, setting refers to the character of the place in which the property played its historic role. It involves how, not just where, the property is situated and its relationship to surrounding features and open space. These

features and their relationships should be considered not only within the exact boundaries of the property, but also between the property and its surroundings.

**Special Recreation Management Areas:**

These are areas where congressionally recognized recreation values exist or where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed.

**Special Status Species:**

Special status species are species proposed for listing, officially listed as threatened or endangered, or are candidates for listing as threatened or endangered under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act; those listed by a state in a category such as threatened or endangered, implying potential endangerment or extinction; and those designated by the State Director as sensitive (BLM 2008e).

**Split-estate:**

Surface land and mineral estate of a given area under different ownerships. Frequently, the surface will be privately owned and the minerals federally owned.

**Standards for Healthy Rangelands:**

A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., land health standards).

**State-listed Species:**

Species proposed for listing or listed by a state in a category implying, but not limited to, potential endangerment or extinction. Listing is either by legislation or regulation.

**Surface-disturbing Activities (or Surface Disturbance):**

The physical disturbance and movement or removal of land surface and vegetation. These activities range from the very minimal to the maximum types of surface disturbance associated with such things as OHV travel or use of mechanized, rubber-tired, or tracked equipment and vehicles; some timber cutting and forest silvicultural practices; excavation and development activities associated with use of heavy equipment for road, pipeline, powerline and other types of construction; blasting; strip, pit, and underground mining and related activities, including ancillary facility construction; oil and gas well drilling and field construction or development and related activities; range improvement project construction; and recreation site construction.

**Surface Water Classes and Uses:**

The following water classes are a hierarchical categorization of waters according to existing and designated uses. Except for Class 1 waters, each classification is protected for its specified uses plus all the uses contained in each lower classification. Class 1 designations are based on value determinations rather than use support and are protected for all uses in existence at the time of or after designation. There are four major classes of surface water in Wyoming with various subcategories within each class.

- (a) Class 1, Outstanding Waters. Class 1 waters are those surface waters in which no further water quality degradation by point source discharges other than from dams will be allowed. Nonpoint sources of pollution shall be controlled through implementation of appropriate best management practices. Pursuant to Section 7 of these regulations, the water quality and physical and

biological integrity that existed on the water at the time of designation will be maintained and protected. In designating Class 1 waters, the Environmental Quality Council shall consider water quality, aesthetic, scenic, recreational, ecological, agricultural, botanical, zoological, municipal, industrial, historical, geological, cultural, archeological, fish and wildlife, the presence of substantial quantities of developable water, and other values of present and future benefit to the people.

(b) Class 2, Fisheries and Drinking Water. Class 2 waters are waters, other than those designated as Class 1 that are known to support fish or drinking water supplies or where those uses are attainable. Class 2 waters may be perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral and are protected for the uses indicated in each subcategory listed below. Five subcategories of Class 2 waters exist.

(c) Class 3, Aquatic Life Other than Fish. Class 3 waters are waters other than those designated as Class 1 that are intermittent, ephemeral, or isolated waters, and because of natural habitat conditions, do not support nor have the potential to support fish populations or spawning or certain perennial waters that lack the natural water quality to support fish (e.g., geothermal areas). Class 3 waters provide support for invertebrates, amphibians, or other flora and fauna that inhabit waters of the state at some stage of their life-cycles. Uses designated on Class 3 waters include aquatic life other than fish, recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture, and scenic value. Generally, waters suitable for this classification have wetland characteristics; and such characteristics will be a primary indicator used in identifying Class 3 waters. There are four subcategories of Class 3 waters.

(d) Class 4, Agriculture, Industry, Recreation, and Wildlife. Class 4 waters are waters other than those designated as Class 1 where it has been determined that aquatic life uses are not attainable pursuant to the provisions of Section 33 of these regulations. Uses designated on Class 4 waters include recreation, wildlife, industry, agriculture and scenic value (Wyoming DEQ No Date-b).

**Type E Fence:**

Identified as a wildlife-friendly fence type that more effectively accommodates wildlife passage than other traditional fence types. Four-wire construction allows most wildlife species to pass over or under the fence and provides adequate containment for livestock.

**Unique Forest and Woodland Communities:**

Forest and woodland habitats recognized as significant for at least one factor such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, age, or having limited distribution throughout the planning area.

**Utilization Levels:**

The proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by animals (including insects). It may refer either to a single plant species, a group of species, or to the vegetation as a whole, generally expressed as a percentage.

**Vegetative Diversity:**

The variety of vegetative types in an area, including species, the genetic differences among species and populations, the communities and ecosystems in which vegetation types occur,

and the structure and seral stage of these communities. Vegetative diversity includes rare, as well as common vegetative types, and typically supports a diverse array of animal species and communities.

**Viewshed:**

Viewshed is used in Visual Resource Management to describe "... landscape that can be seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint (key observation point) or along a transportation corridor" (BLM 1984).

**Visual Resource Management Classes:**

Class I. The objective of this class is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. It is applied to wilderness areas, some natural areas, wild portions of wild and scenic rivers, and other similar situations in which management activities are to be restricted.

Class II. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape; however, the changes should remain subordinate to the existing characteristic landscape.

Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale; however, changes should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape.

Rehabilitation Area. Change is needed or change may add acceptable visual variety to an area. This class applies to areas where the naturalistic character has been disturbed to a point at which rehabilitation is needed to bring it back into character with the surrounding landscape. This class would apply to areas identified in the scenic evaluation where the quality class has been reduced because of unacceptable cultural modification. The contrast is inharmonious with the characteristic landscape. It may also be applied to areas that have the potential for enhancement; i.e., add acceptable visual variety to an area or site. It should be considered an interim or short-term classification until one of the other Visual Resource Management Class objectives can be reached through rehabilitation or enhancement. The desired visual resource management class should be identified.

**Visual Resources:**

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

**Waiver:**

A permanent exemption of a stipulation.

**Wetlands:**

Wetlands are areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and which, under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. BLM Manual 1737, Riparian-Wetland Area Management, includes marshes, shallow swamps, lakeshores, bogs, muskogs, wet meadows, estuaries, and riparian areas as wetlands.

**Wildfire:**

An unplanned ignition of a wildland fire (such as a fire caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires) and escaped prescribed fires.

**Wildland Fire:**

A general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland.

**Wildland Industrial Interface:**

The area where industrial development meets or intermingles with undeveloped wildland.

**Wildland Urban Interface:**

The Healthy Forest Recreation Act 2003 defines wildland urban interface (Section 101) as an area within or adjacent to an at risk community that has been identified by a community in its wildfire protection plan or, for areas that do not have such a plan, an area extending; (1) ½ mile from the boundary of an at risk community, or; (2) 1½ miles when other criteria are met. (e.g., a sustained steep slope or a geographic feature aiding in creating an effective fire break or is condition class III land, or; (3) is adjacent to an evacuation route.

**Wildlife-disturbing Activity:**

BLM-authorized activities other than routine maintenance that may cause displacement of or excessive stress to wildlife during critical life stages. Wildlife-disturbing activities include human presence, noise, and activities using motorized vehicles or equipment.

**Wind River Indian Reservation:**

Indian reservation shared by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes of Native Americans in the central western portion of Wyoming. It is the seventh-largest Indian reservation by area in the United States, encompassing a land area of 3,473.272 square miles. It encompasses just over one-third of Fremont County and over one-fifth of Hot Springs County, and the reservation is located in the Wind River Basin, surrounded by the Wind River Mountain Range, Owl Creek Mountains, and the Absaroka Mountains.

**Withdrawal:**

Removal or withholding of public lands, by statute or Secretarial order, from operation of some or all of the public land laws. A mineral withdrawal includes public lands potentially valuable for leasable minerals, precluding the disposal of the lands except with a mineral reservation clause, unless the lands are found not to contain a valuable deposit of minerals. A mineral withdrawal is the closing of an area to mineral location and development activities.

**Yellowcake:**

Yellowcake is the product of the uranium extraction (milling) process. Early production methods resulted in a bright yellow compound, hence the name yellowcake. The material is a mixture of uranium oxides that can vary in proportion and color from yellow to orange to dark green (blackish), depending at which temperature the material was dried (level of hydration and impurities). Higher drying temperatures produce a darker, less soluble material. Yellowcake is commonly referred to as  $U_3O_8$  and is assayed as pounds  $U_3O_8$  equivalent. This fine powder is packaged in drums and sent to a conversion plant that produces uranium hexafluoride as the next step in the manufacture of nuclear fuel.