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## GLOSSARY

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**ABANDONED LEK.** A lek in otherwise suitable habitat that has not been active during a consecutive 10-year period. Before a lek is designated “abandoned” it must be confirmed as “inactive” (see definition under “Inactive Lek”) in at least four non-consecutive strutting seasons spanning the 10 years. Once designated “abandoned,” the site should be surveyed at least once every 10 years to determine whether or not the lek has been reoccupied.

**ACTIVE LEK.** Any lek that has been attended by male greater sage-grouse during the strutting season. Presence can be documented by observing birds using the site or by signs of strutting activity.

**ACTIVE RAPTOR NEST SITES.** Any identified raptor nest site that could provide a nesting opportunity for a raptor. Temporal and spatial stipulations will be applied.

**ACTIVITY PLANNING.** Site-specific planning that precedes development. This is the most detailed level of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning. An activity plan details management of one or more resources on a specific site. Examples are allotment management plans and recreation area management plans. Activity plans implement decisions made in the RMP.

**ACTUAL USE.** The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM.

**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE (ATV).** A wheeled or tracked vehicle, other than a snowmobile or work vehicle, designed primarily for recreational use or for the transportation of property or equipment exclusively on undeveloped road rights-of-way, marshland, open country, or other unprepared surfaces.

**ALLOTMENT.** An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments consist of BLM administered lands and usually 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.

**ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP).** A written plan of livestock grazing management designed to attain management goals and objectives in a grazing allotment. An AMP is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other affected interests. Livestock grazing is considered in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources, such as watershed, vegetation, and wildlife.

**ALLUVIUM.** Any sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, floodplain, or delta.

**AMENDMENT.** The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved RMPs or Management Framework Plans using the prescribed provisions for resource management planning appropriate to the proposed action or circumstances. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

**ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL (ADC).** The control of animals that are causing economic losses to agriculture, damage to property, or hazards to human health. Such control usually results in the killing of the offending animal(s). (See also Wildlife Services)

**ANIMAL UNIT.** A standardized unit of measurement for range livestock or wildlife. Generally, one mature (1,000-pound) cow or its equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

**ANIMAL UNIT MONTH (AUM).** A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal unit for 1 month; also, a unit of measurement that represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for 1 month.

**APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO DRILL (APD).** An official request submitted by a lessee or operator to the BLM for permission to drill a well. The approved APD is a contract between the operator and the Federal Government and cannot be changed or modified unless authorized by the BLM.

**APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT LEVEL (AML).** The prescribed number of wild horses BLM has determined through monitoring will be maintained within a Horse Management Area (HMA). The AML is set to ensure a thriving natural ecological balance will be maintained while also ensuring viable populations of wild horses. Therefore, the number is not necessarily the resource-limited carrying capacity of an HMA. Maintenance of a thriving natural ecological balance requires consideration of wild horses in light of other consumptive and non-consumptive uses within an HMA. Through establishing the AML, BLM strives to maintain the multiple-use relationship that existed at the time the Wild and Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act was passed. Appendix 12 contains a detailed description of the development, application, and interpretation of AMLs for the Rawlins HMAs.

**APPROPRIATE MANAGEMENT RESPONSE (AMR).** The response to a wildland fire is based on an evaluation of risks to firefighter and public safety; the circumstances under which the fire occurs, including weather and fuel conditions; natural and cultural resource management objectives; protection priorities; and values to be protected. This includes the use of wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role. The evaluation must also include an analysis of the context of the specific fire within the overall local, geographic area, or national wildland fire situation.

**AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES (ANS).** A nonindigenous species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species or the ecological stability of infested waters, or commercial, agricultural, or recreational activities dependent on such waters. Aquatic nuisance species include nonindigenous species that may occur in inland, estuarine, and marine waters and that presently or potentially threaten ecological processes and natural resources. In addition to adversely affecting activities dependent on waters of the United States, aquatic nuisance species adversely affect individuals, including health effects.

**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.

**ASSESSMENT.** The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

**AVOIDANCE AREAS.** Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas

would have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not be otherwise feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

**BIG GAME.** Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

**BIOACCUMULATION.** Processes involving dissolved and particulate organic carbon are of central importance in shaping the chemical character of water.

**BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (BA).** The gathering and evaluation of information on proposed endangered and threatened species and critical habitat and proposed critical habitat. A BA is required when a management action potentially conflicts with endangered or threatened species and is the method by which other federal agencies enter into formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and describe a proposed action and the consequences to the species the action would affect.

**BOARD FOOT.** A unit of solid wood 1 foot square and 1 inch thick.

**CANDIDATE SPECIES.** Any species included in the *Federal Register* notice of review that is being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**CANOPY.** The uppermost layer consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs in a forest, woodland, or shrubland.

**CASUAL USE.** Activities that involve practices that do not ordinarily lead to any appreciable disturbance or damage to lands, resources, and improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit.

**CHANNEL.** An open conduit either naturally or artificially created that periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

**CHECKERBOARD LAND PATTERN.** Alternating sections of federally owned lands and private or state lands on either side of the Union Pacific railroad in southwestern Wyoming. This pattern of land ownership looks like a checkerboard on maps, using different colors to show land status.

**CLASSIFICATION AND MULTIPLE USE.** Refers to both the Classification and Multiple Use (C&MU) Act of 1964 and the classifications that were placed on the lands pursuant to that act. The objective of the C&MU Act was to provide an opportunity for BLM to categorize lands for multiple use management and for disposal. The act provided 4 years for BLM to classify lands for multiple use management by prohibiting disposal or entry under various public land laws to be specified in the particular classification document.

The C&MU classifications referred to in the current document prohibited disposal under the Isolated Tracts Act (Revised Statutes 2455) and entry under the agricultural entry laws (Homestead Act, Desert Land Act, and others). Portions of the C&MUs also prohibited entry under the General Mining Law of 1872. Today, the multiple use provisions of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 fulfill the purpose and objectives of the C&MU classifications.

**CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS (CFR).** The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

**COMMERCIAL FORESTLAND.** Forestland that is now producing or is capable of producing at least 20 cubic feet of wood fiber per acre per year from commercial coniferous tree species and that has met certain economic, environmental, or multiple-use criteria for inclusion in the commercial forestland base.

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

**COMMUNITY.** An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

**COMPENSATION MITIGATION.** Mitigation measures located away from an adversely affected site (i.e., in contrast with on-site mitigation.) Compensation mitigation would be used as a tool to address loss of habitat effectiveness when reclamation, Best Management Practices, and on-site mitigation measures are not adequate to mitigate the impacts of proposed actions.

**CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL (COA).** Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which a site-specific surface disturbing or human presence activity (Application for Permit to Drill, sundry notice, right-of-way, etc.) is approved.

**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.

**CONSERVATION POPULATION.** A reproducing and recruiting population of native cutthroat trout that is managed to preserve the historical genome and/or unique genetic, ecological, and/or behavioral characteristics within specific populations and within geographic units. Conservation population is at least 90 percent cutthroat trout and approximately 10 percent introgression.

**CONSISTENCY.** The circumstance in which the proposed land use plan does not conflict with officially approved plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other federal agencies, and state, and local governments to the extent practical within federal law, regulation, and policy.

**COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (CEQ).** An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the national Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the president on environmental matters.

**COVER.** Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators). (See also Vegetation Cover and Forest Crown Cover.)

**CREPUSCULAR.** Refers to species that are active at twilight.

**CRITICAL HABITAT.** An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species “on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection.” These irreplaceable and vital areas are designated as critical by the Secretary of the Interior for the survival and recovery of listed Threatened and Endangered Species.

**CRUCIAL HABITAT.** Any particular range or habitat component (often winter or winter/yearlong range in Wyoming), that is the determining factor in a population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above the Wyoming Game and Fish Department's population objective) over the long term.

**CRUCIAL WINTER RANGE.** The portion of the winter range to which a wildlife species is confined during periods of heaviest snow cover.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE.** A fragile and nonrenewable remnant of human activity, occupation, or endeavor reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, or natural features.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY.** A descriptive listing and documentation, including photographs and maps, of cultural resources. Processes involved are locating, identifying, and recording of sites, structures, buildings, objects, and districts through library and archival research; collecting information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources; and conducting on-the-ground field surveys of varying levels of intensity. See also Cultural Resource Inventory Classes.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY CLASSES.** A Class I inventory of a defined area provides a narrative overview of existing information and a compilation of existing data on which to base the development of BLM's site record system. A Class II inventory is a sample-oriented field inventory designed to locate and record, on the basis of surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of a defined area to make possible an objective estimate of the nature and distribution of cultural resources in the entire defined area. A Class III inventory is an intensive field inventory designed to locate and record all cultural resource sites within a specified area. Upon completion of such an inventory, no further cultural resource inventory work is normally needed in that area.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (CRMP).** A plan designed to inventory, evaluate, protect, preserve, or make beneficial use of cultural resources and the natural resources that figured significantly in cultural systems. The objectives of such plans are the conservation, preservation, and protection of cultural values and the scientific study of those values.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE (cultural property).** A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural properties are extremely variable in size, ranging from the location of a single cultural resource feature to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects.

**CUMULATIVE IMPACT.** The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**DESIGNATED ROADS AND VEHICLE ROUTES.** Those roads and vehicle routes that are specifically identified by the BLM as the only allowable routes for motor vehicle travel in the specific area involved. Travel on designated roads and trails may be allowed seasonally or yearlong. Additional roads or vehicle routes may be constructed and authorized for travel, as need dictates, in conformance with the land use plan or activity plan.

**DESIGNATED RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) CORRIDOR.** A parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by law, Secretarial Order, the land use planning process, or by some other management decision as a preferred location for existing and future ROW facilities. The corridor may be suitable to accommodate more than one type of ROW use or facility or one or more ROW uses or facilities that are similar, identical, or compatible. A designated corridor may already be occupied by existing utility facilities. It has been adequately analyzed in order to provide a high degree of assurance that in being identified as a "designated corridor," it can accommodate at least one new additional utility facility.

**DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS (DFC).** The set of physical and chemical habitat parameters that constitute suitable conditions to fulfill the life history requirements of desired fishes.

**DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY (DPC).** A plant community that produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site(s). The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.

**DESTROYED LEK.** A formerly active lek site and surrounding sagebrush habitat that has been destroyed and is no longer capable of supporting sage-grouse breeding activity. A lek site that has been strip-mined, paved, converted to cropland, or undergone other long-term habitat type conversion is considered destroyed. Destroyed leks do not require monitoring unless the site is reclaimed as suitable sage-grouse habitat.

**DISCHARGE (WATER).** The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given location or within a given period of time.

**DISCOVERY.** The knowledge of the presence of valuable minerals within or close enough to a location to justify a reasonable belief in their existence. Discovery is extremely important to public lands mining because the Mining Law of 1872 provides that mining claims can be located only after a discovery is made.

**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, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

**DISPOSAL.** Transfer of ownership of a tract of public land from the United States to another party through sale, exchange, or transfer under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

**DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES.** Activities that cause disorder or turmoil; or destroy, usually temporarily, the normal continuance of animal activity (i.e., herd movement, normal breeding behavior [such as grouse strutting], foraging, nesting). Some examples of disruptive activities include resource surveys that require personnel to remain in an area for more than one hour (e.g., excavation of cultural sites, land surveys, project construction, geophysical activities, permitted or organized recreational activities, prescribed fire, etc.); fencing modification; facility monitoring; and livestock herding.

**DIURNAL.** Describes a cyclic event recurring daily; or the nature or habit of an organism to be active during daylight hours.

**DIVERSITY.** The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

**DOCUMENTED LEK.** Any lek that has been identified as Active, Inactive, Unknown, or Occupied.

**EASEMENT.** A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

**ECOSYSTEM.** A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

**EMERGENCY CLOSURE.** An immediate management action taken to resolve a resource problem or to protect public safety. An emergency closure is not an official OHV use designation. This closure can affect all access to an area or use of a road or trail, including OHV use. The authority for emergency closures is 43 CFR 8364, Closure of Lands.

**EMERGENCY STABILIZATION AND REHABILITATION.** The full range of post fire activities to protect and sustain ecosystems, public health, and safety, and to help communities protect infrastructure in the most cost-effective manner.

**ENDANGERED SPECIES.** Any plant or animal species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as defined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the authority of the Endangered Species Act 1973, as amended.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA).** Concise, analytical documents, authorized by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and prepared with public participation that determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed for a particular project or action. If an EA determines an EIS is not needed, the EA becomes the document asserting agency compliance with NEPA requirements.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS).** A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**EPHEMERAL CHANNELS.** A defined channel formed in response to ephemeral surface flow conditions. Defined channels typically can be identified by an abrupt bank along a water flow path with evidence of scouring, sorting, and/or vegetation removal during flood events. These channels generally form in concave erosional features such as gullies, ravines, swells, etc.

**EPHEMERAL SURFACE WATERS.** Streams, lakes, or other surface water bodies that have open water *only* during or immediately after periods of rainfall or snowmelt.

**EROSION.** The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents.

**EXCLUSION AREA.** Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and 302 permits, leases, and easements would not be authorized.

**EXTENSIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AREA.** That portion of the RMPPA not included in one of the Special Recreation Management Areas.

**FEDERAL LANDS.** As used in this document, lands owned by the United States, without reference to how the lands were acquired or what federal agency administers the lands. The term includes mineral estates or coal estates underlying private surface but excludes lands held by the United States in trust for Indians, Aleuts, or Eskimos. See also Public Land.

**FEDERAL LANDS POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT of 1976 (FLPMA).** Public Law 94-579. Effective October 21, 1976, it is often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

**FEDERAL REGISTER (FR).** A daily publication that reports Presidential and federal agency documents.

**FISHERY.** The complex of interactions within and between the population(s) of fish being harvested, the population(s) of anglers, and the environment of each.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT.** Fire management activities, including fire planning, fire management strategies, tactics, alternative prevention, preparedness, and education. Addresses the role of mitigation, post-fire rehabilitation, fuels reduction, and restoration activities in fire management.

**FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN (FMP).** A strategic plan that defines a program to manage wildland and prescribed fires, and documents the fire management program in the approved land use plan. FMPs must address a full range of fire management activities that support ecosystem sustainability, values to be protected, protection of firefighters and public safety, and public health and environmental issues, and must be consistent with resource management objectives and activities of the area.

**FIRE SUPPRESSION.** All work and activities associated with fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

**FLIGHT DISTANCE (DISPLACEMENT DISTANCE).** That distance to which a person can approach a wild animal without causing it to flee.

**FLOOD PLAIN.** The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water that has been or might be covered by floodwater.

**FORAGE.** All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals that may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

**FOREST CROWN COVER.** The proportion of forested land area covered by tree crowns.

**FORESTLAND.** Lands that are capable of producing at least a 10 percent crown cover of both commercial and non-commercial forest vegetation and that are managed for other resource values.

**FUELS MANAGEMENT.** Fuels are vegetation (alive or dead) that can carry fire. Management of fuels includes attempting to modify fire behavior should a wildland fire occur.

**FUGITIVE DUST.** Airborne emissions of visible and non-visible fine, dry particulate matter smaller than 100 micrometers (microns) that result from surface disturbance activities.

**FUR BEARING ANIMAL.** Badger, beaver, bobcat, marten, mink, muskrat, and weasel.

**GAME BIRDS.** Grouse, partridge, pheasant, ptarmigan, quail, wild turkey, and migratory game birds.

**GOAL.** A broad statement of a desired outcome. Goals are usually not quantifiable and may not have established time frames for achievement.

**GRAZING PREFERENCE.** The total number of AUMs on public land apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee.

**GRAZING SYSTEM.** A systematic sequence of grazing use and nonuse of an allotment to reach identified multiple-use goals or objectives.

**GUIDELINES.** Actions or management practices that can be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as best management practices. Guidelines may be identified during the land use



planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory.

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

**HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN (HMP).** An approved plan, identifying wildlife habitat and related objectives for a specific geographic area of public lands, to be implemented to maintain and improve wildlife habitat.

**HAZARD REDUCTION.** Any treatment of a hazard that reduces the threat of ignition and fire intensity or rate of spread.

**HERBACEOUS.** Pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stem plant) as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees.

**HERD AREA.** An area where wild horses existed in 1971.

**HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (HMA).** An area that has been designated for continuing management of wild horses.

**HIBERNACULUM.** Winter home or abiding place.

**HIGH-VALUE HABITAT.** Habitat that sustains a community, population, or subpopulation, but can be reconstructed or enhanced where avoidance is not possible.

**HISTORIC.** Period wherein nonnative cultural activities took place, based primarily upon European roots, having no origin in the traditional Native American culture(s).

**HISTORICAL LEK.** (Former term for “unoccupied lek.”) There are two types of unoccupied leks, “destroyed” or “abandoned.” Management protection will not be afforded to unoccupied leks.

**HISTORICAL RAPTOR NESTS.** Any raptor nest or site that has been destroyed but that was historically recorded and documented. Temporal and spatial stipulations will not apply.

**HOME RANGE.** The area in which an animal travels in the scope of its natural activities.

**IDENTIFIED 100-YEAR FLOOD PLAINS.** Those areas delineated by the Army Corps of Engineers or other appropriate authority for legal 100-year floodplain delineation.

**IMPACTS (OR EFFECTS).** Consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.** A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. An implementation plan usually selects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Implementation plans are synonymous with “activity” plans. Examples of implementation plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, and allotment management plans.

**IMPORTANT OR LIMITED HABITATS.** Areas of especially high value for a diversity of wildlife or areas that provide certain habitat elements essential to the existence of certain groups of wildlife.

**INACTIVE LEK.** Leks where it is known that there was no strutting activity through the course of a strutting season. A single visit, or even several visits, without strutting grouse being seen is not adequate documentation to designate a lek as inactive. This designation requires either an absence of birds on the lek during multiple ground visits under ideal conditions throughout the strutting season or a ground check of the exact lek site late in the strutting season that fails to find any sign (droppings/feathers) of strutting activity.

**INACTIVE RAPTOR NESTS.** Any nest site that has been monitored in 6 of the last 10 years and been documented as being unoccupied each time it was monitored. Temporal stipulations apply, but not spatial stipulations.

**INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT.** Management that includes the use of proper distance restrictions, mitigation stipulations, seasonal or timing restrictions, rehabilitation standards, reclamation measures, use of best management practices (see Appendix 13), and the application of the Wyoming Mitigation Guidelines for Surface-disturbing and Disruptive Activities (Appendix 1) 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 habitats, soils, water, archeological 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.

**INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM.** A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline can provide insights on any stage of the problem and disciplines can combine to provide new solutions. The number and particular disciplines of the members preparing the plan vary with circumstances. A member may represent one or more disciplines or BLM program interest.

**INTERIOR BOARD OF LAND APPEALS (IBLA).** The Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals, board that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because the Interior Board of Land Appeals acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision but are subject to the courts.

**INTERMITTENT SURFACE WATERS.** Streams, lakes, or other surface water bodies that have open water during a portion of the year, or, during particularly wet years, may have open water throughout the year. In the case of streams, this term can also refer to non-continuous flow resulting from groundwater interaction (i.e., portions of the stream are generally dry and other portions are generally wet in most years).

**INVASIVE SPECIES.** 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.

**KEYSTONE SPECIES.** A species that plays a pivotal role in an ecosystem, and upon whom a large part of the community depends (e.g., prairie dog establishes towns that provide habitat for burrowing owls, mountain plover, and other species).

**LAND USE PLAN.** A set of decisions that establishes management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process, regardless of the scale on which the decisions were developed.

**LEASABLE MINERALS.** Minerals subject to lease by the Federal Government, such as coal, oil and gas, oil shale, potash, sodium, phosphate, and other minerals that can be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended. The major leasable minerals in the planning area are oil and gas and coal.

**LEK.** A traditional courtship display area attended by male greater sage-grouse in or adjacent to sagebrush dominated habitat. Designation of the site as a lek requires the observation of two or more male sage-grouse engaged in courtship displays. In addition, new leks must be confirmed by a survey conducted during the appropriate time of day and during the strutting season. Observation of sign of strutting activity can also be used to confirm a suspected lek. (See also, Abandoned Lek, Active Lek, Destroyed Lek, Documented Lek, Historical Lek, Inactive Lek, Lek Complex, Lek Count, Lek Survey, Occupied Lek, Undetermined Lek, Unknown Lek, and Unoccupied Lek.)

**LEK COMPLEX.** A group of leks in close proximity between which male sage-grouse may be expected to interchange from one day to the next. A specific distance criterion does not yet exist.

**LEK COUNT.** A census technique that documents the actual number of male sage-grouse observed on a particular lek or complex of leks using a lek survey. (See Lek Survey.)

**LEK SURVEY.** A monitoring technique designed primarily to determine whether leks are active or inactive. Obtaining accurate counts of the numbers of males attending is secondary.

**LENTIC.** Wetland areas with standing water habitat, such as lakes, ponds, seeps, bogs, and meadows.

**LIMITED DESIGNATION (OHV).** Area in which vehicle travel is restricted in some manner. Restrictions could take many forms, but the most common are “limited to existing roads and trails;” which allows vehicle travel only on roads that were in existence at the time of designation or have been authorized for future uses; “limited to designated roads and trails,” which allows vehicle travel only on roads that BLM designates; and “seasonal restrictions,” which restricts vehicle travel in an area or on certain roads during some portion of the year (such as wintertime vehicle restrictions to protect big game on crucial winter range).

Under limitations to existing or designated roads and trails, vehicle travel off roads is permitted only to accomplish necessary tasks and only if such travel would not result in resource damage. Necessary tasks are defined as work requiring the use of a motor vehicle. Examples include repairing range improvements, managing livestock, and conducting mineral activities in which surface disturbance does not total more than 5 acres, as described in the provisions of 43 CFR 3809.1-3.

**LIVESTOCK CONVERSION.** A discretionary action changing permitted use from one class of animal to another.

**LOCATABLE MINERALS.** Generally, the metallic minerals subject to development specified in the Federal Mining Law of 1872. Examples are gold, silver, and copper.

**LOTIC.** Riparian areas with running water habitat such as rivers, streams, creeks, and springs.

**MANAGEMENT DECISION.** A decision made by the BLM to manage public lands. Management decisions include both land use plan decisions and implementation decisions.

**MANAGEMENT SITUATION ANALYSIS (MSA).** Assessment of the current management direction. It includes a consolidation of existing data needed to analyze and resolve identified issues, a description of current BLM management guidance, and a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them.

**MINERAL.** Any solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the Earth for profit.

**MINERAL ENTRY.** The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any minerals it may contain.

**MINERAL ESTATE.** The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

**MINERAL LOCATION.** The act of marking out and establishing rights by a claimant for mining purposes in accordance with the Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

**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 that can be acquired under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

**MINERAL WITHDRAWAL.** A formal order that withholds federal lands and minerals from entry under the Mining Law of 1872 and closes the area to mineral location (staking mining claims) and development.

**MINING CLAIM.** A selected parcel of federal land, valuable for a specific mineral deposit or deposits, for which an individual has asserted a right of possession under the General Mining Law. That individual's right is restricted to the development and extraction of a mineral deposit. The rights granted to that individual by a mining claim are valid against a challenge by the United States and other claimants only after discovery of a valuable mineral deposit. There are two types of mining claims, lode and placer, and there are two other types of mining support locations, mill sites and tunnel sites.

**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.

**MONITORING.** A program designed to measure changes in vegetation, watershed health, climate, animal populations, and other resources on BLM-administered land.

**MOUNTAIN PLOVER OCCUPIED HABITAT.** An area within mountain plover habitat where broods and/or adults have been found in the current year or documented in at least 2 of the past 5 years.

**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 AMBIENT AIR QUALITY STANDARDS (NAAQS).** The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air. National ambient air quality standards are based on the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, human-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT of 1969 (NEPA).** The basic national law for protection of the environment passed by the Congress in 1969. It sets policy and procedures for environmental protection, and authorizes EISs and Environmental Assessments (EAs) to be used as analytical tools to help federal managers make decisions.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP).** A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

**NATIVE SPECIES.** A species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in an ecosystem (Executive Order 13112).

**NATURALNESS.** Unmodified by human impacts.

**NECESSARY TASKS.** Work requiring the use of a motorized vehicle. Examples include surveying and staking for Notices of Intent (NOIs) to conduct geophysical activities, APDs, ROWs; repairing range improvements; managing livestock; and mineral activities where surface disturbance does not total more than 5 acres as described in the 5-acre exemption under 43 CFR 3809 regulations.

**NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY (NSO).** Use or occupancy of the land surface for development activities or facilities is prohibited to protect identified resource values.

**NOCTURNAL.** Refers to species that are active at night.

**NONCOMMERCIAL FORESTLAND.** (See Woodlands.)

**NON-NATIVE SPECIES.** A species, including its seeds, eggs, spores, or other biological material capable of propagating that species, that is not native to the ecosystem under consideration (Executive Order 13112).

**NOXIOUS WEEDS.** 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 nonnative, new, or not common to the United States.

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

**OCCUPIED LEK.** A lek that has been active during at least one strutting season within the last 10 years. Management protection will be afforded to occupied leks.

**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV).** Any motorized tracked or wheeled vehicle designed for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain. Exclusions (from Executive Order 11644, as amended by Executive Order 11989) are nonamphibious registered motorboats; any military, fire, emergency, or

law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorizing officer or otherwise officially approved; vehicles in official use; and any combat support vehicle in times of national defense emergencies.

**OFF-SITE MITIGATION.** (See Compensation Mitigation.)

**OTHER ACTIVITIES.** Seismic activities, maintenance actions exceeding 8 hours on existing equipment and facilities, repair or reconditioning of rangeland improvements that exceed 8 hours in duration, or any activity that requires more than 8 hours on the site.

Maintenance actions related to Other Activities include—

- Leasable, Locatable, and Saleable Mineral Activities:
  - Work over rig
  - Pipeline repair
  - Reclamation activities
- Range Management
  - Fence repair
  - Stock pond maintenance
  - Pipeline repair
- Reclamation of habitat.

**OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES.** Waterway-related characteristics that are exemplary in their scenic, recreational, geological, historical, cultural, ecological, biological, botanical, paleontological, hydrological, or scientific attributes. For specific criteria in each classification, see Appendix 3.

**OVERLAND FLOW.** Water that flows on the surface in response to precipitation events, typically described as sheet or rill flow with rills forming as a result of the channelization of water on the hillslope and sheet flow being more uniform along the slope.

**OVERSTORY.** The most height-dominant story of vegetation present in a multilevel vegetation community.

**PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES (FOSSILS).** The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations.

**PARTICULATE MATTER (PM).** Fine liquid or solid particles suspended in the air and consisting of dust, smoke, mist, fumes, and compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and metals.

**PARTURITION AREA.** Birthing area commonly used by more than a few female members of a population.

**PASSERINE BIRDS.** Birds of the order Passeriformes, which includes perching birds and songbirds such as blackbirds, jays, finches, warblers, and sparrows. More than half of all birds belong to this order.

**PERENNIAL SURFACE WATERS.** Streams, lakes, or other surface water bodies that have open water in most years. These systems would generally **only** dry up during drought conditions. In the case of streams, this term can refer to the persistence of surface waters along a channel (i.e., few reach where the infiltration into the stream aquifer exceeds the flow).

**PERSONAL INCOME.** The sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, proprietors' income, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments to persons, less personal contributions for social insurance.

**pH.** A measure of acidity or hydrogen ion activity. Neutral is pH 7.0. All values below 7.0 are acidic, and all values above 7.0 are alkaline.

**PLAN.** A document that contains a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of BLM-administered resources in a specific geographic area.

**PLANNING AREA.** A geographical area for which land use and RMPs are developed and maintained.

**PLANNING CRITERIA.** The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions.

**PLANNING BASE.** Includes law, regulation, policy, land use plan decisions (e.g., RMPs, RMP Amendments, and Management Framework Plan Amendments), NEPA documents (e.g., EISs, Administrative Determinations, EAs, and Categorical Exclusion Reviews), and supporting data (e.g., automated data bases, research, and evaluations).

**POPULATION.** A group of organisms, all of the same species, which occupies a particular area. The term is used to refer to the number of individuals of a species within an ecosystem or of any group of like individuals.

**PREFERENCE.** Grazing privileges established following the passage of the Taylor Grazing Act, based on the use of the federal range during the priority period. The active preference and suspended preference together make up the total grazing preference.

**PREHISTORIC.** Refers to the period wherein Native American cultural activities took place that were not yet influenced by contact with historic nonnative culture(s).

**PRESCRIBED FIRE.** Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

**PRESCRIBED FIRE PLAN (BURN PLAN).** This document provides the prescribed fire burn boss information needed to implement an individual prescribed fire project.

**PRESCRIPTION.** Measurable criteria that define conditions under which a prescribed fire or wildland fire for resource benefit may be used to guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

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

**PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (PFC).** A riparian-wetland area is considered to be in proper functioning condition when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high waterflow, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; to filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development; to improve flood-water retention and

ground-water recharge; to develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; to develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary to fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and to support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is a result of interaction among geology, soil, water, and vegetation. (Prichard, et al. 1998) There are two categories of wetlands. Lentic areas are created by a stable water table such as playas, fens, areas around lakes, marshes, etc., and lotic areas are in riverine environments.

**PROPOSED SPECIES.** Species that have been officially proposed for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior. A proposed rule has been published in the *Federal Register*.

**PUBLIC LAND.** As used in this document, federally owned surface or mineral estate specifically administered by the BLM.

**PUBLIC LAND LAWS.** That body of laws dealing with the administration, use, and disposition of the public lands, but does not include the mineral laws, 43 CFR 2091.0-5 (h).

**RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS.** Any activity or program on or relating to rangelands that is designed to improve forage production, change vegetation composition, control patterns of use, provide water, stabilize soil and water conditions, and enhance habitat for livestock, wildlife, and wild horses. Rangeland improvements include such things as water developments, fences, and vegetation treatments.

**RANGE TREND.** The direction of change in range condition.

**RAPTOR.** Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks such as hawks, owls, vultures, and eagles.

**RAPTOR CONCENTRATION AREA (RCA).** A localized area where raptors congregate that may provide thermal protection, increased forage availability, and a minimal level of stress-inducing disturbances.

**RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT of 1926 (R&PP).** Refers to both the Recreation and Public Purposes Act [(43 U.S.C 869(a))] and the uses to be made of public land transferred under the act. The objective of the R&PP Act is to meet the needs of state and local government agencies and nonprofit organizations by leasing or conveying public land required for recreation and public purpose uses. Examples of uses made of R&PP lands are parks and greenbelts, sanitary landfills, schools, religious facilities, and camps for youth groups. The act provides substantial cost-benefits for land acquisition and provides for recreation facilities or historical monuments at no cost.

**RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS).** A planning process that provides a framework for defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum of six classes: primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. The resulting analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the six classes.

**RECREATION SITES.** Specific areas where concentrated recreation use is known to occur. There are two kinds of sites, developed and undeveloped.



- **Developed Recreation Sites:** Areas that support recreation that requires facilities, resulting in a concentrated use of the area. An example of a developed recreation site is a campground. Facilities might include parking lots, boat ramps, toilets, sources of drinking water, or designated camp sites with picnic tables and fire rings.
- **Undeveloped Recreation Sites:** Small areas without facilities (usually 2–3 acres in size) that are known and used because of their location along rivers or trails.

**RESOURCE DAMAGE.** Damage to any natural or cultural resources that results in impacts such as erosion, water pollution, degradation of vegetation, loss of archaeological resources, or the spread of weeds.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP).** A land use plan, as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives and actions to be achieved.

**RIGHT-OF-WAY.** 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.

**RIPARIAN.** Wetlands situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, lake or other body of water. Typically used to refer to the plants that grow rooted in the water table. In common use, this term can be synonymous with wetlands, but typically refers to areas along flowing water (see Lentic and Lotic). (See also Wetland/Riparian.)

**RIPARIAN AREA.** A transition between wetlands or water bodies and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of subsurface water in the root zone. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

**RIPARIAN COMMUNITIES.** Communities of vegetation associated with either open water or wetlands. Examples are cottonwood and willow communities, meadows, aspens near water sources, and other trees, grasses, forbs, and shrubs associated with water.

**RUNOFF.** Water flowing out of a system, whether surface or groundwater. Typically excess water beyond the ability of the system to store it or use it in vegetation transpiration.

**SAGE-GROUSE BREEDING HABITATS.** Breeding habitats are composed of leks, nesting, and early brood-rearing habitats.

**SAGE-GROUSE LEK.** (See Lek.)

**SAGE-GROUSE NESTING/EARLY BROOD-REARING HABITAT.** Nesting habitat for sage-grouse in Wyoming is generally described as sagebrush that has canopy cover between 15 and 30 percent and heights between 11 and 32 inches. Herbaceous plant height (6 inches or greater) and canopy cover (>15 percent) provide important cover and food for sage-grouse using these habitats. Early brood-rearing habitat generally has 10 to 25 percent sagebrush canopy cover and has slightly higher canopy cover of grasses and forbs than nesting habitat. Early brood-rearing habitat is generally used by sage-grouse hens with chicks when chicks range in age from 1 to 21 days.

**SAGE-GROUSE WINTER HABITATS.** During winter, sage-grouse feed almost exclusively on sagebrush leaves and buds. Suitable winter habitat requires sagebrush above snow. Sage-grouse tend to select wintering sites where sagebrush is 10 to 14 inches above the snow. Sagebrush canopy cover used by sage-grouse above the snow may range from 10 to 30 percent. Foraging areas tend to be on flat to generally southwest-facing slopes and windswept ridges.

**SALABLE MINERALS.** Minerals that may be sold under the Material Sale Act of 1947, as amended. Included are common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, and clay.

**SAWTIMBER.** Trees that have reached sufficient size and maturity to be used for “dimension lumber” such as 2 x 4s.

**SCENIC QUALITY.** The visual appeal of a tract of land based on landform, vegetation, water, color, adjacent scenery, scarcity, and cultural modifications in relationship to the natural landscape.

**SCOPING.** The process of identifying the range of issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an environmental impact statement or land-use planning document. It involves both internal and public viewpoints.

**SEASON OF USE.** The time during which livestock graze a given area. It is manipulated to achieve resource objectives.

**SENSITIVE SPECIES.** Those species designated by a State Director, usually in cooperation with the state agency responsible for managing the species and state natural heritage programs. They are those species that: (1) could easily become endangered or extinct in a state; (2) are under status review by the USFWS and/or NMFS; (3) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species’ existing distribution; (4) are undergoing significant current or predicted downward trends in population or density such that federal listing, proposal, or candidate status may become necessary; (5) typically have small and widely dispersed populations, or (6) inhabit ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

**SERIAL.** Stages of vegetation maturity or succession, usually described as early, mid, or late, with different dominances of plant species or communities in each stage.

**SHRUB.** A low, woody plant, usually with several stems, that may provide food and/or cover for animals.

**SMOKE MANAGEMENT.** Application of fire intensities and meteorological processes to minimize degradation of air quality during prescribed fires or fires for resource benefit.

**SPATIAL MANAGEMENT.** As used in this document, intensive control of the location and level of surface disturbance that would be allowed in a particular area.

**SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA).** An area that requires explicit recreation management to achieve recreation objectives and provide specific recreation opportunities.

**SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES (SSS).** Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the ESA; state-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species (see BLM Manual 6840—Special Status Species Policy).

**SPLIT ESTATE.** Surface and minerals of a given area in different ownerships. Frequently, the surface will be privately owned and the minerals federally owned.

**STANDARD.** 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.

**STIPULATION.** A condition or requirement attached to a lease or contract, usually dealing with protection of the environment or recovery of a mineral.

**STRUTTING GROUND.** An area used by sage-grouse in early spring for elaborate, ritualized courtship displays. (See also Lek.)

**SUBSTRATE.** The mineral or organic material that forms the bed of a stream; the base upon which an organism lives; or the surface on which a plant or animal grows or is attached.

**SUPPRESSION.** All the work of extinguishing or containing a fire, beginning with its discovery.

**SURFACE DISTURBANCE.** 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).

**SURFACE OCCUPANCY.** Placement or construction on the land surface of semipermanent or permanent facilities requiring continual service or maintenance. Casual use is not included.

**TAKE.** As defined by the Endangered Species Act, “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct.”

**TEMPORAL MANAGEMENT.** As used in this document, intensive control of the period during which BLM will allow activities that are physiologically disturbing or disrupting to normal wildlife activities.

**THERMAL COVER.** Vegetation or topography that prevents radiational heat loss, reduces wind chill during cold weather, and intercepts solar radiation during warm weather.

**THREATENED SPECIES.** Any plant or animal species that is likely to become an endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of its range, as defined by the USFWS under the Authority of the ESA 1973, as amended.

**TRANSPORTATION AND UTILITY CORRIDOR.** A parcel of land, without fixed limits or boundaries, this is used as the location for one or more transportation or utility ROW.

**TREATMENT.** Any method (or combination of methods, i.e., Integrated Management) used to control/contain, manage, or eradicate a species or community using biological (insects, goats), mechanical (thinning, mowing, pulling, chaining), cultural (livestock management), or chemical (pesticides) means.

**TROPHY GAME ANIMAL.** Black bear, grizzly bear, or mountain lion.

**TURBIDITY.** Interference with the passage of light through water due to insoluble particles of soil, organics, microorganisms and other materials.

**UNDERSTORY.** The least height-dominant story of vegetation present in a multilevel vegetation community.

**UNDETERMINED LEK.** Any lek that has not been documented as active in the last 10 years but that has not been sufficient documented to be designated unoccupied. Management protection will be afforded to undetermined leks until their status has been documented as unoccupied.

**UNKNOWN LEK.** Leks that have not been documented either active or inactive during the course of a strutting season.

**UNOCCUPIED LEK.** (Formerly termed “historical lek”.) There are two types of unoccupied leks, “destroyed” or “abandoned.” Management protection will not be afforded to unoccupied leks.

**UNSUITABILITY CRITERIA.** Criteria of the federal coal management program by which lands can be assessed as unsuitable for all or certain stipulated methods of coal mining.

**UPLANDS.** Lands at higher elevations than alluvial plains or low stream terraces; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

**UTILIZATION.** The proportion of the current year’s forage production that is consumed by grazing animals. Utilization is usually expressed as a percentage.

**VEGETATION COVER.** The proportion of land or ground surface of an area covered by vegetation.

**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 MANAGEMENT (VRM).** The system by which 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 (VRM) CLASSES.** 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:

- **Class I** provides for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers, 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.

**VITAL HABITATS.** Habitat that limits a community, population, or sub-population, and of which restoration or replacement may not be possible.

**WATER TABLE.** The planer surface between the zone of saturation and the zone of aeration. Measured as the elevation where the groundwater surface is at equilibrium with atmospheric pressure. The water table is typically measured with a shallow groundwater well and is equal to the elevation of the water surface in the well. This term is typically not used in reference to confined aquifers or aquifers under pressure. Also known as the groundwater table, groundwater surface, water level, and saturated surface, among other terms.

**WATERSHED.** All lands that are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.

**WETLANDS.** A term that varies in meaning depending on the methodology used to determine wetland characteristics. Typically wetlands must have plants associated with anaerobic soil conditions (no oxygen and saturated with water), evidence of modeling (metal deposits) or other hydric soil indicators, and have the hydrology to allow for the location to be fully saturated at or near the soil surface for at least 2 weeks in a typical year. Wetlands can include standing water at or near the surface (typically not more than 2 meters deep) or saturated banks along flowing water such as riparian areas. (See also Wetlands/Riparian.)

**WETLANDS/RIPARIAN.** Areas exhibiting vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of surface or subsurface water. These areas include lands adjacent to, or contiguous with, perennially and intermittently flowing rivers, streams, springs and seeps; meadows, playas, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels, among others. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack typical riparian vegetation. These areas can typically be identified by the plant communities that are present. (See definitions for wetland and riparian plant communities.)

**WILD HORSE HERD MANAGEMENT AREA (WHHMA) or (HMA).** An area that has been designated for continuing management of wild horses.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (WSR).** 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. (See Appendix 3.)

**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) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

**WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS.** Characteristics of lands that include: permanent human improvements or habitation, primeval character intact, affected primarily by the forces of nature, and/or the presence of outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

**WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA).** Areas under study for possible inclusion as a Wilderness Area in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

**WILDLAND FIRE.** Any non-structural fire that occurs on wildland.

**WILDLAND FIRE SITUATION ANALYSIS (WFSA).** A decision-making process that evaluates alternative suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and economic criteria. Provides a record of decisions.

**WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI).** The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

**WILDLAND.** Land that is uninhabited or uncultivated.

**WILDLIFE SERVICES (WS).** Wildlife Services is a division of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and is responsible for the control of animals that are causing economic losses to agriculture, damage to property, or hazards to human health. (See also Animal Damage Control.)

**WITHDRAWAL.** An action that restricts the use of described public lands from operation of certain laws, which are also described in the withdrawal order. Withdrawal also may be used to transfer jurisdiction or management to other federal agencies. This term can also refer to the amount of water removed from an aquifer or surface water system, such as a well or a diversion for irrigation.

**WOODLANDS.** Those lands with 5 percent or greater crown cover in tree species *not* typically used in commercially processed wood products, including such species as limber pine, juniper, and aspen.