
Chapter 7

Glossary of Terms

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Acre-foot	Volume of water (43,560 cubic feet) that would cover 1 acre land, 1 foot deep.
Action Alternative	A change in the current management approach.
Affected environment	Existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action. Also, the chapter in an environmental document describing current environmental conditions.
Alternatives	Courses of action that may meet the objectives of a proposal at varying levels of accomplishment, including the most likely future conditions without the management plan or action.
Amphibian	Vertebrate animal that has a life stage in water and a life stage on land (for example, salamanders, frogs, and toads).
Aquatic	Living or growing in or on the water.
Archeology	Related to the study of human cultures through the recovery and analysis of their material relics.
Archeological site	A discrete location that provides physical evidence of past human use.
Best Management Practices	Activities that are added to typical operation, construction, or maintenance efforts that help to protect environmental resources by avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action.
Community	A group of one or more interacting populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement at a particular point in time.
Concentration	The density or amount of a substance in a solution (water quality).
Cubic foot per second (cfs)	As a rate of streamflow, a cubic foot of water passing a reference section in 1 second of time. A measure of a moving volume of water.
Cultural resource	Cultural resources are historic and traditional properties that reflect our heritage.

Drawdown	Lowering of a reservoir's water level; process of releasing reservoir storage.
Endangered species	A species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
Erosion	Refers to soil and the wearing away of the land surface by water, wind, ice, or other physical processes.
Exotic species	A non-native species that is introduced into an area.
Facilities	Manmade structures.
Fish and Wildlife Service Species of Concern	Species identified by the FWS for which further biological research and field study are needed to resolve these species' conservation status.
Habitat	Area where a plant or animal finds suitable living conditions.
Indian Sacred Sites	Defined in Executive Order 13007 as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site."
Indian Trust Assets	Legal interests in property held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individuals, such as lands, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, and water rights.
Juvenile	Young animal that has not reached reproductive age.
Mitigation measures	Action taken to avoid, reduce the severity of, or eliminate an adverse impact. Mitigation can include one or more of the following: (1) avoiding impacts; (2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of an action; (3) rectifying impacts by restoration, rehabilitation, or repair of the affected environment; (4) reducing or eliminating impacts over time; and (5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments to offset the loss.
National Register of Historic Places	A Federally maintained register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and properties that meet the criteria of significance defined in 36 CFR 63.
No Action Alternative	The outcome expected from a continuation of current management practices.

Perennial	Plants that have a life cycle that lasts for more than 2 years.
Precipitation	Rain, sleet, and snow.
Public involvement	The systematic provision for affected publics to be informed about and participate in Reclamation decision making. It centers around effective, open exchange and communication among the partners, agencies, organizations, and all the various affected publics.
Raptor	Any predatory bird, such as a falcon, eagle, hawk, or owl, that has feet with sharp talons or claws and a hooked beak.
Reptile	Cold-blooded vertebrate of the class Reptilia, comprised of turtles, snakes, lizards, and crocodiles.
Resident	A wildlife species commonly found in an area during a particular season: summer, winter, or year round.
Resource topics	The components of the natural and human environment that could be affected by the alternatives, such as water quality, wildlife, socioeconomic, and cultural resources.
Resource Management Plan	A 10-year plan developed by Reclamation to manage their lands and resources in the study area.
Riparian	Of, on, or pertaining to the bank of a river, pond, or lake.
Runoff	That part of precipitation that contributes to streamflow, groundwater, lakes, or reservoir storage.
Sediment	Unconsolidated solid material that comes from weathering of rock and is carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water or wind.
Songbird	Small to medium-sized birds that perch and vocalize or "sing," primarily during the breeding season.
Spawning	Laying eggs directly in water, especially in reference to fish.
Species	In taxonomy, a subdivision of a genus that (1) has a high degree of similarity, (2) is capable of interbreeding only within the species, and (3) shows persistent differences from members of allied species.
Threatened species	Any species that has the potential of becoming endangered in the near future and is listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Traditional Cultural Property	A site or resource that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.
Wetland habitat	Wildlife habitat associated with water less than 6 feet deep, with or without emergent and aquatic vegetation in wetlands.
Wetlands	Lands transitional between aquatic and terrestrial systems where the water table is usually at or near the land surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Often called marshes or wet meadows.