



## GLOSSARY

### (Including Acronyms and Abbreviations)

**ACEC.** Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

An area within the public lands where special management attention 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.

**ACTIVITY PLAN.** A site specific plan for the management of one or more resources (i.e. CMP, AMP). Activity plans implement decisions made in the Resource Management Plan.

**AMP.** Allotment Management Plan. A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment. It is prepared with consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the permittee(s), lessee(s), or other affected parties.

**AUM.** Animal Unit Month. The amount of forage necessary for the complete sustenance of one cow, or its equivalent (one horse or five sheep, all over six months old) for one month; also, a unit of measurement of grazing privilege that represents the privilege of grazing one animal for a period of one month.

**AVOIDANCE AREAS.** Land areas generally unsuitable for inclusion in utility corridors because they pose particular land use or environmental impacts that would be difficult or impossible to mitigate. This may vary by type of facility.

**CADASTRAL SURVEY.** A survey that creates, marks, defines, retraces, or reestablishes the boundaries and subdivisions of public land.

**CFL.** Commercial Forest Land. Forestland that is capable of yielding at least twenty cubic feet of wood per acre per year of commercial coniferous tree species.

**CLIMAX PLANT COMMUNITY.** The final vegetative community that emerges after a series of successive vegetational stages and perpetuates itself indefinitely unless disturbed by outside forces.

**COMMON VARIETY MINERAL MATERIALS.** Widespread deposits of common clay, sand, gravel, or stone which are not subject to disposal under the 1872 Mining Law (as amended).

**COMPETITIVE BIDDING.** Bidding at an open public auction to qualified purchasers.

**CRITICAL HABITAT.** Any habitat, which if lost, would appreciably decrease the likelihood of the survival and recovery of a threatened or endangered species, or a distinct segment of its population. Critical habitat may represent any portion of the present habitat of a listed species and may include additional areas for reasonable population expansion. Critical habitat must be officially designated as such by the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

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- CRUCIAL HABITAT.** This term is defined by criteria (see information memo. MT-82-82) specific to the wildlife species and season involved. Currently criteria for elk, mule deer, antelope, blue grouse, and sage grouse have been developed and are in use in the Headwaters R.A. Crucial habitat is also referred to as key habitat.
- CURRENT AUTHORIZED USE.** Current active grazing preference in AUMs.
- DEEP MINING METHODS.** Mining to recover deposits of material that are too deep for surface mining methods. It usually involves mining through a shaft or adit.
- DE FACTO WILDERNESS.** Areas that possess general wilderness characteristics such as naturalness, roadlessness, etc., but have not been formally designated as wilderness by Congress.
- DHES.** (Montana) Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.
- DIRECT SALE.** A sale at fair market value to a designated purchaser without competitive bidding.
- DISPOSAL AREA.** An area where public land generally will be made available for disposal through sales or exchanges or both. Some land may be retained in public ownership based on site-specific application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.
- DOE.** (U.S.) Department of Energy.
- EA.** Environmental Assessment.
- EQUITIES.** The increase in the value of private property directly caused by the ability to lease a public resource.
- ESSENTIAL HABITAT.** Habitat of any threatened or endangered species that possesses the same characteristics as Critical Habitat, but which has not yet been officially designated as such.
- EXCLUSION AREAS.** Land areas determined to be unavailable for corridor allocation or facility siting.
- FISHABLE STREAM.** A fishable stream is one having sufficient water throughout the year to support a viable population of game fish.
- FLPMA.** Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.
- FURTHER STUDY AREA.** An area where public land has not been prioritized for retention or disposal. Site-specific adjustment decisions will be based on application of the land ownership adjustment criteria.
- FWS.** (U.S.) Fish and Wildlife Service.
- GRANDFATHERED ACTIVITY.** Any surface disturbance or alteration that occurred in a wilderness study area before passage of FLPMA.
- HARDROCK MINING.** A term that refers to underground or open pit mining as opposed to placer or hydraulic mining.
- IMPORTANCE CRITERION.** One of the two criteria that must be met before an area can be officially identified as a potential ACEC. An environmental resource can be found to be "important" if it has qualities that give it (a) special worth, consequence, meaning, distinctiveness or cause for concern especially when compared to any like to similar resources, and, generally, (b) more than local significance. Qualities or circumstances that make such a resource fragile, sensitive, rare, irreplaceable, endangered, threatened, or vulnerable to adverse change may be among the cause for concern. A natural hazard can be found to be "important" if it is a significant threat, either existing or potential, to human life or property.
- INHOLDING.** A parcel of nonpublic land surrounded by public land.
- KEY HABITAT.** See CRUCIAL HABITAT.
- LEASABLE MINERALS.** Those minerals or materials that can be leased from the federal government. Includes oil and gas, coal, phosphate, sodium, potash, and oil shale.
- LITHIC SCATTER.** A prehistoric site characterized by a scatter of stone tools and flakes that may indicate a number of functions.
- LOCATABLE MINERALS.** Minerals or materials subject to disposal and development through the Mining Law of 1872 (as amended). Generally includes metallic minerals such as gold and silver and other materials not subject to lease or sale (some bentonites, limestone, talc, some zeolites, etc.).
- MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT.** Managing grazing allotments at their present level.

- MAJOR FOREST ACTIVITY PLAN.** An integrated forest harvest plan used in support of forest harvest operations that considers factors including but not limited to, multiple use tradeoffs, transportation system development, and silvicultural prescriptions. These plans cover an area larger than the actual area on which harvest occurs (such as a drainage). They are commonly referred to as Compartment Management Plans (CMPs).
- MBF.** Thousand Board Feet. A measure of timber volume.
- MCF.** Thousand Cubic Feet.
- MDF&G.** Montana Department of Fish and Game.
- MDFWP.** Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks.
- MESIC HABITAT.** A habitat having a moderate amount of moisture available for the support of plant life.
- MFP.** Management Framework Plan. A planning decision document that established, for a given planning area, land use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple use, and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. It was the BLM's land use plan. An MFP was prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making. BLM land use plans developed after 1981 under an altered planning system are called RMPs (Resource Management Plans).
- MINOR FOREST ACTIVITY PLAN.** A forest harvest plan for the area on which harvest is to occur and the areas immediately adjacent to the harvest area. Boundaries are normally limited by land status.
- MMBF.** Million Board Feet.
- MODIFIED COMPETITIVE BIDDING.** Bidding at public auction in which there are designated bidders (designated bidders may be as few as one).
- MOTTILING.** Spots or blotches of different color or shades of color interspersed with the dominant color.
- NEPA.** National Environmental Policy Act.
- NONPOINT SOURCE.** Pollutants which originate from diffuse runoff, seepage, drainage, or infiltration are said to have a nonpoint source.
- NONUSE.** Current authorized grazing use (in AUMs) that is not used during a given time period. Nonuse is applied for and authorized on an annual basis.
- NWPS.** National Wilderness Preservation System.
- ONA.** Outstanding Natural Area. Area of outstanding scenic splendor or natural wonder that merits special attention and care in management to ensure its preservation in a natural condition.
- ORV.** Off-Road Vehicle.
- PATENTED CLAIM.** A claim on which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the 1872 mining law.
- PHYSIOGRAPHIC PROVINCE.** A region of similar structure and climate that has had a unified geomorphic history.
- PLACER MINING.** A form of mining in which the surface material is washed for gold or other valuable minerals. When water under pressure is employed to break down the gravel, the term hydraulic mining is generally used.
- PLANNING CRITERIA.** The factors used to guide development of the resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issue previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, the analysis of the management situation, the design and formulation of alternatives, the estimation of the effects of alternatives, the evaluation of alternatives, and the selection of the preferred alternative.
- PRIMITIVE AND UNCONFINED TYPES OF RECREATION.** Nonmotorized and nondeveloped types of outdoor recreational activities.
- R&PPACT.** Recreation and Public Purposes Act.
- RECREATION LANDS.** Tracts of land, usually several thousand acres in size where recreation is, or is expected to be, a major use and designation will assist the public by making the areas known to them.
- RELEVANCE CRITERION.** One of two criteria that must be met before an area can be officially identified as a potential ACEC. An environmental resource or natural hazard can be found to be "relevant" if it is one of the kinds of resources, values, systems, processes, or hazards included in the definition of an ACEC contained in FLPMA.

**WSA.** Wilderness Study Area. A parcel of public land that through the BLM's wilderness inventory process has been found to possess the basic wilderness characteristics of being at least 5,000 acres in size, being primarily natural, and having outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

