



Glossary

ACCELERATED EROSION — Soil loss at a rate in excess of natural or geologic erosion as a result of human-caused disturbance.

AGE CLASS — A classification of woody plant species according to relative age, e.g., seedling, young, mature, or decadent.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN — A documented program which applies to livestock grazing on public lands, prepared by consulting, cooperating, and coordinating with the permittee(s), lessee(s), or other interested publics.

ANIMAL HABITAT — The place and environment where an animal lives including all biotic, climatic, and edaphic factors.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMP) — A component practice or combination of component practices determined to be the most effective, practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals. (Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan, August 1993)

COMPONENT PRACTICES — Approved practices, used alone or in combination with other practices, are used to develop BMPs. (Idaho Agricultural Pollution Abatement Plan, August 1993)

CONNECTIVITY — The state of being functionally connected by movement of organisms, material, or energy. The opposite of habitat fragmentation.

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CONSULTATION, COORDINATION, AND COOPERATION — A process prescribed by the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of involving the permittee(s), lessee(s), federally recognized Indian tribes, and interested publics in the development of allotment management plans and other management programs on public lands. The process also includes trust responsibilities to Federally recognized Indian tribes.

COLLABORATION — To work jointly with others.

COVER — (See Ground Cover)

DEFERMENT — Nongrazing, either by delay or discontinuance of grazing, from the beginning of plant growth until the seed is set or the equivalent stage of vegetative reproduction.

DIVERSITY — (1) The absolute number of species in a community, species richness; and (2) a measure of the number of species and their relative abundance in a community; low diversity refers to few species or unequal abundances, high diversity to many species or equal abundances.

ECOLOGICAL SITES — A kind of land with specific physical characteristics that differs from other kinds of land in its ability to produce distinctive kinds and amounts of vegetation and its response to management. Ecological site is synonymous with range site and ecological type.

ENERGY FLOW — The capture of sunlight energy by plants and the conversion through photosynthesis to biomass.

EXOTIC PLANT COMMUNITIES, OTHER THAN SEEDINGS — Assemblages of plants that are not indigenous to the area, such as cheatgrass, yellow star thistle, and medusa head rye.

FRAGMENTATION — The process of dividing habitats into smaller and smaller units until their utility as habitat is lost.

GRAZING MANAGEMENT PRACTICES — Techniques used to manage livestock and include season, duration (amount of the time grazing occurs), intensity of use, numbers of livestock, kind of livestock, and distribution (e.g., salting, herding, and water development).



GRAZING PLAN OR PROGRAM — A combination of grazing management and/or facilities used to ensure an expectation of meeting or making significant progress toward meeting the Standards for Rangeland Health.

GROUND COVER — The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. It may include live and standing dead vegetation, microbiotic crust, litter, cobble, gravel, stones, and bedrock. Ground cover, plus bare ground, totals 100 percent.

HUMAN ACTIVITIES — Any activity that is initiated or controlled by people, such as recreation, timber harvest, livestock grazing, road and other construction, and mining.

HYDROLOGIC CYCLE — The circulation of water in the atmosphere, on the surface of the earth, in the soil, and in the underlying rocks.

INDIAN TREATY — A contract in writing between the United States Government and Indian tribes formally signed by duly authorized representatives and ratified by the United States Senate.

INDICATOR — Components or attributes of a rangeland ecosystem that can be observed and/or measured that provides evidence of the function, productivity, health and/or condition of the ecosystem.

INFILTRATION — A soil, as influenced by soil texture, aspect, slope, and vegetation cover.

LANDFORM — A naturally formed element of the landscape that controls or influences hydrologic, physical, and ecological processes.

LANDSCAPE — Landform of a region in aggregate.

LAND USE PLAN — Land use plan means a resource management plan or management framework plan, developed under the provisions of 43 CFR 1600. These plans are developed through public participation in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and establish management direction for resource uses of public lands. (43 CFR 4100)

LIFE FORM — Characteristic form or appearance of a plant species at maturity, e.g., tree, shrub, forb, grass, etc.

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LITTER — Dead plant or animal material on the soil surface.

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT FACILITIES — Physical facilities, such as fences, water developments, and corrals that are used to handle and control livestock.

MICROBIOTIC CRUST — Community of non-vascular primary producers that occur as a "crust" on the surface of soils and made up of a mixture of algae, lichens, mosses, and cyanobacteria (bluegreen algae).

MONITORING — The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data and information to evaluate progress toward meeting Standards for Rangeland Health and/or management objectives.

MULTIPLE USE — The definition of multiple use is defined in the Federal Policy and Management Act of 1976 as follows:

"The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resource or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform with changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historic values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of the uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest output."

NATIVE SPECIES — Plants or animals indigenous to the area.

NON-NATIVE SPECIES — Plants or animals that are not indigenous to the area.

NOXIOUS WEEDS — Exotic plants that are listed by the State of Idaho and subject to Idaho weed control laws.

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NUTRIENT CYCLE — The cyclical process by which plants and animals use chemical compounds and elements in the soil, water, and atmosphere to produce plants and animals and the decomposition of plants and animals to return chemical compounds and elements to the soil, water, and air for future use.

PRODUCTIVITY — The ability of a site to produce vegetation.

PROPER FUNCTIONING CONDITION (RIPARIAN) —

"Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to 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 ground-water recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity."

USDI. 1993, Revised 1995. Riparian Area Management, Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition, Technical Report 1737-9, p. 4. Bureau of Land Management, BLM/SC/ST-93/003+1737+REV95, Service Center, CO. 51 pp.

USDI. 1994. Riparian Area Management, Process for Assessing Proper Functioning Condition for Lentic Riparian-Wetland Areas. Technical report 1737-11. Bureau of Land Management, BLM/SC/ST-94/008+1737, Service Center, CO. 37 pp.

RANGELAND — A kind of land on which the native vegetation is predominately grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs. Rangelands include natural grasslands, savannas, shrublands, moist deserts, alpine communities, riparian areas, and wet meadows.

RANGELAND CONDITION — The present status of a unit in terms of specific values or potential.

RANGELAND HEALTH — The degree to which the integrity of the soil and ecological processes of rangeland ecosystems is maintained.

National Research Council. 1994. Rangeland Health: New Methods to Classify, Inventory and Monitor Rangelands.



RESIDUAL VEGETATION — Amount, cover, and species composition of the vegetation on a site after it has been grazed for a period of time.

REST — Nongrazing for a specified period of time, generally a full growing season up to a full year.

RIPARIAN AREAS — A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and uplands. The areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect permanent surface or subsurface water influence. Typical riparian areas include such areas as lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers, streams, glacial potholes, and shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Riparian areas do not include ephemeral (permanently above the water table and flows only during or immediately after a rainstorm or snowmelt) streams that do not exhibit the presence of vegetation dependent upon free water in the soil. (Bureau of Land Management Technical Reference TR 1737-9 and 11)

SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS — Plants and animals listed by the Bureau of Land Management State Directors.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS — Measurable and/or observable (i.e., photography, use of approved qualitative procedures) changes in the indicators that demonstrate improved rangeland health.



SPATIAL SCALE — The relative size of an area under consideration. For example, a small scale is a site, a mid-scale is a watershed, and a large scale is a basin.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES — Plant and animal species that are federally listed as threatened or endangered, proposed threatened or endangered, candidate species, State listed as threatened or endangered, or listed by a Bureau of Land Management State Director as sensitive.

SUSTAINED PRODUCTIVITY OF THE RANGE — Maintaining the production capability of the rangeland for long periods of time (100 years +).

TREND — The direction of change in ecological status or resource value rating observed over time.

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USE — Human activities (e.g., mining, forestry, livestock grazing, vegetation manipulation, road construction and maintenance, other construction and maintenance activities, wild horses, recreation, habitat manipulation, and management facility construction and maintenance).

WATERSHED — An area that collects and discharges runoff to a given point. It is often used synonymously with drainage basin or catchment.

WETLAND — Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water 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. Typical wetlands include marshes, shallow swamps, sloughs, lake shores, bogs, wet meadows, and riparian areas. (Bureau of Land Management Technical Reference TR 1737-9 and 11)

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