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Glossary

Air Quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act, PL 88-206: January 1978.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but may also include other federally managed, state owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment Categorization: Grazing allotments and rangeland areas used for livestock grazing are assigned to an allotment category during resource management planning. Allotment categorization is used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Categorization is also used to organize allotments into similar groups for purposes of developing multiple use prescriptions, analyzing site-specific and cumulative impacts, and determining tradeoffs.

Alternative: A mix of management prescriptions applied to specific land areas to achieve a set of goals and objectives. Each alternative represents a different way of achieving a set of similar management objectives.

Animal Unit Months (AUMs): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow or its equivalent for a period of one month.

Appropriate Management Response (AMR): Any specific action suitable to meet Fire Management Unit (FMU) objectives. Typically, the AMR ranges across a spectrum of tactical options (from monitoring to intensive management actions). The AMR is developed by using Fire Management Unit strategies and objectives identified in the Fire Management Plan.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): An area that needs special management attention to preserve historic, cultural, or scenic values; to protect fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life and provide safety from natural hazards.

Authorized Use: Use of BLM land for which permission has been received from the BLM through a lease, permit, or right-of-way (including, but not limited to, grazing, oil and gas, and administrative activities).

Best Management Practices (BMPs): Methods, measures or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution including, but not limited to, structural and non-structural controls, operation and maintenance procedures, other requirements, scheduling and distribution of activities. Usually, BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, economic and technical feasibility.

Casual Use: Activities that involve practices which do not ordinarily cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public lands, resources, or improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit. Examples include (but are not limited to) the use of roads for hunting and sightseeing, and ingress/egress on existing roads and trails.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): The official, legal tabulation of regulations directing federal government activities.

Compaction: The process of packing firmly and closely together; for example, mechanical compaction by vehicular, human or livestock activity. Soil compaction results from particles being pressed together so that the volume of the soil is reduced. It is influenced by the physical properties of the soil, moisture content, and the type and amount of compactive effort.

Concentrations of Livestock: The result of high numbers of animals per unit area, such as high density grazing or placement of supplements or salt on a small area. Concentrations of livestock can compact soils and could displace nesting birds. Though only a guideline, an average of two pair of cattle per acre or higher may be considered concentrating of livestock.

Controlled Surface Use (CSU): Use and occupancy is allowed (unless restricted by another stipulation), but identified resource values require special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. CSU is used for operating guidance, not as a substitute for the no surface occupancy or timing stipulations.

Cooperating Agency: A governmental entity (federal, state, local, or tribal) that works with the BLM to develop a land use plan and NEPA analysis, as defined by the lead and cooperating agency provisions of the CEQ's NEPA regulations (40 CFR 1501.5 and 1501.6). Normally the BLM serves as the lead agency, though in some cases other governmental entities serve with the BLM as joint leads.

Crucial Habitat: Habitat which is basic to maintaining viable populations of fish or wildlife during certain seasons of the year or specific reproduction periods. It can describe any particular range or habitat component, but describes that component which is the determining or limiting factor in a wildlife population's ability to maintain and reproduce itself at a certain level and in good health over the long term.

Cultural Resource or Cultural Property: A definite location of human activity, occupation, or use identifiable through field inventory (survey), historical documentation, or oral evidence. The term includes archaeological, historic, or architectural sites, structures, or places with important public and scientific uses, and may include definite locations (sites or places) of traditional cultural or religious importance to specified social and/or cultural groups. See Traditional Lifeway Value and Traditional Cultural Property. Cultural resources are concrete, material places and things that are located, classified, ranked, and managed through the system of identifying, protecting, and utilizing for public benefit. They may be, but are not necessarily eligible for the National Register. See Historic Property or Historic Resource.

Disruptive Activities: Those activities that disrupt or alter wildlife actions at key times, during important activities, or in important areas (feeding, breeding, nesting, herd movement, winter habitat). Disruptive activities are those which can result in reductions of energy reserves, health, reproductive success, or population. Some examples of disruptive activities include geophysical (seismic), well plugging or work-over operations that last 24 to 48 hours or longer, and road reclamation. Emergency activities, rangeland monitoring, recreational activities, livestock grazing and management, and other field activities are not considered disruptive activities.

Ecological Site: A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and specific physical site characteristics, differing from other kinds of land in its ability to produce vegetation and response to management.

Endangered Species: Any plant or animal species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (Endangered Species Act of 1973).

Erosion: Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of surface-disturbing activities of people, animals or natural catastrophes.

Exception: Case-by-case exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation continues to apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria apply.

Exclusion Area. An area unavailable for corridor designation or facility siting. A geographical area designated for its environmental values and having defined boundaries wherein facility construction or operation is prohibited.

Federal Minerals: Mineral interests owned by the United States Government regardless of surface ownership. All federal oil and gas mineral interests are administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

Floodplains: (1) A strip of relatively flat land bordering a stream, built of sediment carried by the stream and dropped in the slack water beyond the influence of the swiftest current. A water floodplain is overflowed during times of high water; a fossil floodplain is beyond the reach of the highest flood. (2) That land outside a stream channel described by the perimeter of the maximum probable flood. (3) The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining an ocean, lake, or other body of standing water which has been or might be covered by floodwater.

Fossil: a. Originally, a rock, mineral, or other substance dug out of the earth. Now, any remains, impression, or trace of an animal or plant of past geologic ages that have been preserved in the earth's crust. b. The remains or traces of animals or plants which have been preserved by natural causes in the earth's crust, and excluding organisms which have been buried since the beginning of historic time.

Geocaching: A type of scavenger hunt for waterproof containers bearing treasure using the containers' exact geographic coordinates and Global Positioning System devices.

Grazing Lease: A document authorizing use of the public lands outside an established grazing district. Grazing leases specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Leases specify the total number of AUMs apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both.

Grazing Permit: A document authorizing use of the public lands within an established grazing district. Grazing permits specify all authorized use including livestock grazing, suspended use, and conservation use. Permits specify the total number of AUMs apportioned, the area authorized for grazing use, or both. Permit/permittee as used in this document, unless otherwise stated, refers to both grazing permits and leases/permittee/lessee.

Habitat: The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species.

HiLine: The Milk River Basin/U.S. Highway 2 corridor across northern Montana.

Historic Property or Historic Resource: Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register. The term includes, for purposes of these regulations, artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term "eligible for inclusion in the National Register" includes both properties formally determined as such by the Secretary of the Interior and all other properties that meet National Register listing criteria. (36 CFR 800.2(e); compare National Historic Preservation Act, Section 301, Appendix 5.) (See also Cultural Resource or Cultural Property. "Cultural property" is an analogous BLM term not limited by National Register status.)

Infiltration: The downward flow of water through pores or small openings into soil or porous rock.

Leave No Trace: A nationwide (and international) program designed to assist visitors with their decisions when they travel and camp on America's public lands. The program strives to educate visitors about the nature of their recreational impacts as well as techniques to prevent and minimize such impacts. The Leave No Trace principles of outdoor ethics form the framework of Leave No Trace's message: 1) plan ahead and prepare; 2) travel and camp on durable surfaces; 3) dispose of waste properly; 4) leave what you find; 5) minimize campfire impacts; 6) respect wildlife; 7) be considerate of others.

Lek: An area used by sage- and sharp-tailed grouse for mating displays (strutting ground).

Migratory Birds: Any bird listed in 50 CFR 10.13 and protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711).

Mitigation: Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Modification: Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A modification may, therefore, include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria applied.

Multiple Use: The harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment. (43 USC 1702). Multiple use involves managing an area for various benefits, recognizing that the establishment of land use priorities and exclusive uses in certain areas is necessary to ensure that multiple uses can occur harmoniously across a landscape.

Neotropical Birds: Birds that breed in North America and winter in tropical and subtropical America.

No-Wake Speed: A speed where white water occurs in the path of the vessel or in waves created by the vessel.

Oil and Gas Conditions of Approval (COA): Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an application for a permit to drill or a sundry notice is approved.

Perennial Streams: Streams that flow continuously throughout the year.

Personal Watercraft: A motorized recreational watercraft or vessel designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, straddling or kneeling on the vessel, rather than in the conventional manner of operation by sitting, standing or kneeling inside the watercraft or vessel. Models normally have an outboard or inboard engine driving a jet pump as the primary source of power. Examples include, but are not limited to, jet skis, wheeled amphibious watercraft, etc.

Planning Criteria: The factors used to guide development of a 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, analysis of the management situation, design and formulation of alternatives, estimation of the effects of alternatives, evaluation of alternatives, and selection of the preferred alternative.

Plant Association: A kind of climax plant community consisting of stands with essentially the same dominant species in corresponding layers.

Plant Community: An assemblage of plants occurring together at any point in time, thus denoting no particular successional status. A unit of vegetation.

Prescribed Fire: Any fire ignited by management actions to meet specific objectives.

Primitive Airstrips: Unpaved, grassy landing strips with no mechanized maintenance, improvements, facilities or infrastructure (tie downs, wind socks, airstrip delineators, etc.).

Proper Functioning Condition (PFC): Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when they dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment 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.

Public Land or BLM Land: Any land and interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except (1) lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf; and (2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

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

Reclamation: Rehabilitation of a disturbed area to make it acceptable for designated use. This normally involves regrading, replacement of topsoil, revegetation and other work necessary to restore it for use.

Record of Decision: A concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale used to reach that decision.

Reserve Common Allotment: A unit of public land that will not have term grazing permits issued. Such an allotment would only be grazed on a temporary, non-renewable basis to provide temporary grazing to rest other areas following wildfire, habitat treatments, or to allow for more rapid attainment of rangeland health. The allotment must be of sufficient size to be managed as a discrete unit. Reserve common allotments should be distributed throughout the planning area.

Riparian Areas: Riparian areas may be associated with lakes, reservoirs, potholes, springs, bogs, wet meadows, and intermittent or perennial streams. The riparian zone occurs between the upland (terrestrial) zone and the aquatic (deep water) zone. Riparian areas are characterized by water tables at or near the soil surface, and by vegetation requiring high water tables.

Significant: An effect that is analyzed in the context of the proposed action to determine the degree or magnitude of importance of the effect, either beneficial or adverse. The degree of significance can be related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

Soil: The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of vegetation.

Soil Survey: The systematic examination, description, classification and mapping of soils in a survey area. Soil surveys are classified according to the level of detail of field examination based on use and management. Order I is the most detailed, then Order II, on to Order V, the least detailed. As used in this EIS, most of the area was mapped at an Order III survey.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): An area where a commitment of BLM staffing and funding has been made, within the parameters of multiple use, to provide opportunities for specific recreation activities and experiences on a sustained yield basis.

Standards for Rangeland Health: The physical or biological conditions or functions required for healthy, sustainable rangelands.

State Minerals: Mineral interests owned by the state in which they reside.

Steep Slopes: Slopes with a gradient between 20 and 60 percent.

Stipulation: A provision that modifies standard lease rights and is attached to and made a part of the lease.

Succession (Plant Succession): The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential stability of a natural plant community.

Surface-Disturbing Activities: Those activities that alter the structure and composition of vegetation and topsoil/subsoil. This includes 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 soil to erosive processes. Some examples of surface-disturbing activities include construction of roads, well pads, trenching for pipelines, construction or reconstruction of reservoirs and pits, and facility construction. Vegetation renovation treatments that involve soil penetration and/or substantial mechanical damage to plants (plowing, chiseling, chopping, etc.) are also surface-disturbing activities. Emergency activities, rangeland monitoring, recreational activities, livestock grazing and management, and other field activities are not considered surface-disturbing activities.

Seasonal Restriction (Timing Limitation): Prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. This stipulation does not apply to the operation and maintenance of production facilities unless the findings of analysis demonstrate the continued need for such mitigation and that less stringent, project-specific mitigation measures would be insufficient.

Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL): The total amount of a pollutant that a water body may receive from all sources without exceeding water quality standards. A TMDL can also be defined as a reduction in pollutant loading that results in meeting water quality standards. The TMDL process was established under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. A TMDL includes both a waste load allocation, which focuses on point sources, and a load allocation, which addresses nonpoint sources.

Traditional Cultural Property: A property that derives significance from traditional values associated with it by a social and/or cultural group such as an Indian tribe or local community. See Cultural Resource or Cultural Property. A traditional cultural property may qualify for the National Register if it meets the criteria and criteria exceptions at 36 CFR 60.4. See National Register Bulletin 38.

Traditional Lifeway Value: A social and/or cultural group's traditional systems of religious belief, cultural practice, or social interaction, not closely identified with definite locations. Another group's shared values are abstract, nonmaterial, ascribed ideas that one cannot know about without being told. Traditional values are taken into account through public participation during planning and environmental analysis or through tribal consultation, as applicable. Traditional values may imbue a place with historic significance (see Traditional Cultural Property).

Upland: The portion of the landscape above the valley floor or stream.

Vibroseis: Vibroseis could be defined as one of many techniques used to acquire geophysical information about the subsurface geology. Vibroseis is essentially another method of producing the energy (dynamite is also used as an energy source) needed to create a wave into the earth and it is reflected back off of various rock formations and recorded at the surface by a sensor called a geophone. Vibroseis is done by carrying the vibrator to the field on a large vehicle and a vibrator pad is lowered to the earth's surface where weight is placed on the pad and through hydraulics the pad is vibrated for up to 20 seconds per location. An analogy of a vibrator would be tossing a pebble into a pond and the release of energy into the pond would cause waves to form.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes: Based on a process that considers scenic quality, sensitivity to changes in the landscape and distance zone. The four VRM classes are numbered I to IV; the lower the number, the more sensitive and scenic the area. Each class has a management objective that prescribes the level of acceptable change in the landscape. The objectives are guidelines that will be used with the visual resource contrast rating system during new project-level planning. The management objectives will not preclude the maintenance of existing structures and range improvements.

Waiver: Permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

Water Quality: The chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

Watershed: All lands which are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.

Wetlands: Wetland ecosystems share a number of characteristics including relatively long periods of inundation and/or saturation, hydrophytic vegetation, and hydric soils. Despite these common features, wetlands exist under a wide range of climatic, geologic, and physiographic situations and exhibit a wide variety of physical, chemical, and biological characteristics.

Wilderness: A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): An area determined to have wilderness characteristics. Study areas will be subject to interdisciplinary analysis and public comment to determine wilderness suitability. Suitable areas will be recommended to the President and Congress for wilderness designation. These areas are an interim designation, valid until either designated as wilderness or released to multiple use management.

Wildland Fire Use: The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP). (From the NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire Terminology)

Winter Range: A range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory deer and elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.



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