

GLOSSARY of TERMS and ACRONYMS

A

Accelerated Erosion: Soil loss above natural levels resulting from human activities.

Action Plan: A plan designed to provide details on a short-term activity (e.g., bighorn sheep transplant, prescribed burn).

Activity Plan: A detailed plan for managing a single resource program or a given area. The need for an activity plan is usually identified in a land use plan.

Adverse Effect (Cultural Resources): Alteration of the characteristics which contribute to the use(s) determined appropriate for a cultural resource or which qualify a cultural property for the National Register to such a degree that the appropriate use(s) are diminished or precluded or the cultural property is disqualified from National Register eligibility. Criteria in the regulations of the Advisory Council (36 CFR, Part 800) guide the determination of adverse effects.

Age Class: An age interval, usually with a 10 to 20 years span, by which a vegetative area is classified (e.g. a 80-100 year old stand of bitterbrush).

Age Structure: The distribution of animals among various defined age classes (e.g., 0-1, 1-2, 2-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15-30) used in describing the dynamics of an animal population.

Air Pollution: Accumulation of aerial wastes beyond the concentrations that the atmosphere can absorb and which may damage the environment.

Air Quality Classes: Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that define the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area:

- Almost any change in air quality would be considered significant
- Deterioration normally accompanying moderate, well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant.
- Deterioration up to the National Standards would be considered insignificant.

Alien Plants/Animals: Species which are not native to the area; also termed "exotic".

Allotment: An area of land designated and managed for the grazing of livestock by one or more livestock operators. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private and other Federal or State owned lands.

Allotment Categorization: As an aid in prioritizing grazing allotments for development of management plans, BLM has placed all allotments into one of three categories: improve (I), maintain (M), or custodial (C).

Glossary

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): An activity plan for livestock grazing. The plan will include management goals and objectives, supporting facilities, the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and procedures for evaluation accomplishments.

Alluvial Fan: A fan-shaped accumulation of disintegrated soil material; deposited by water and located in a position where the water departs from a steep, narrow coarse to enter upon a flat plain or an open valley bottom.

Alluvium: Material, including clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated sediments, deposited by a streambed or other body of running water.

Ambient Air Quality: Prevailing condition of the atmosphere at a given time; the outside air.

Animal Unit (AU): A measurement of animal numbers based upon the equivalent of a mature cow with calf (1000 pounds live weight); roughly one cow with calf, one horse, five sheep, or five deer. One burro equals 7/10 ths.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary to support a cow and her calf for one month. One AUM will also support five sheep or goats, a bull, and a horse for one month.

Appropriate Management Level (AML): A single number which is the highpoint of an established population range to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance, based on available forage, water, and other resource needs or conflicts (relating to management of wild horses and burros).

Aquifer: A water bearing unit of permeable rock or sediment that is capable of yielding water to wells.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Special Area designation established through the Bureau's land use planning process (43 CFR 1610.7-2) where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards. The level of allowable use within an ACEC is established through the collaborative planning process. Designation of an ACEC allows for resource use limitations in order to protect identified resources or values.

Area of Potential Effect (APE): Primarily used in analysis of cultural resources.

Glossary

B

Biomass: The total amount of living plants above the ground in an area at a given time.

Browse: *n* That part of leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, and trees; available for animal consumption. *vb* To consume or browse.

Browsers: Animals that feed primarily on browse.

C

Campsite: A cultural site type representative of all periods consisting of temporary habitat areas which usually contain a lithic scatter, evidence of fire use, ground stone, and pottery scatter.

Candidate Species: Any species of animal or plant or population thereof for which the USFWS currently has on file substantial information on their biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support proposals to list them as endangered or threatened species. Issuance of proposed rules for listing are presently precluded by other higher priority listing actions.

Canopy Cover: The cover of leaves and branches formed by the tops or crowns of plants as viewed from above.

Carrying Capacity: Maximum stocking rate possible without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources. It may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating weather conditions and forage production (see grazing capacity).

Catastrophic Event: A large scale, high intensity natural disturbance that occurs infrequently (e.g., flood, fire).

Categories, Desert Tortoise: The classification of desert tortoise habitat, applied only to BLM-administered Federal lands, for overall management for viable populations of desert tortoise. Tortoise habitat was assigned according to relative importance, manageability, and population density.

Cave: Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages which occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other man-made excavation) and which is large enough to serve as cave habitat for wildlife. Such term shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance.

Glossary

Climax Vegetation Community: The final or stable community in a series of successive vegetation states which is self-perpetuating and in dynamic balance with the physical and biotic environment.

Community: A group of plants and animals living together in a common area and having close interactions.

Compensation: A form of mitigation performed off of the project site.

Concentration Area (Critical Area): That portion of the herd area where animals tend to congregate and where forage impacts are most extreme (related to wild horses and burros).

Conserve: The use of "all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act are no longer necessary...."

Conservancy: A non-profit, privately funded organization whose purpose is to acquire lands for conservation of natural elements.

Conservation Areas: Areas with a special area designation in order to protect biological resources, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wildlife Habitat Management Areas, Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument, and BLM managed lands within the conservation system approved by BLM in support of the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP).

Consult/Consultation: A cooperative effort established by the Endangered Species Act between Federal agencies and the USFWS. The purpose is to ensure that agency actions conserve listed species, aid in recovery of listed species, and protect critical habitat.

Coordinated Resource Management Plan: A plan for management of one or more allotments that involves all the affected resources (e.g., range, wildlife, and watershed).

Critical Habitat: Habitat designated by the USFWS under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, under the following criteria 1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed, on which are found those physical or biological features (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management of protection; or 2) specific areas outside the geographical area by the species at the time it is listed but are considered essential to the conservation of the species.

Critical Period: The time period the entire herd is within the critical area, usually during the hot or dry seasons.

Glossary

Crucial Habitat: That area designated by BLM that is necessary to the existence, perpetuation, or introduction of one or more special status species during critical periods of their life cycle.

Cultural Property: Any definite location of past human activity, habitation or use identified through a field inventory, historical documentation or oral evidence. This term may include; 1) archeological or historic sites, structures and places, and 2) sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to a specific group, whether or not represented by physical remains. Cultural properties are managed by the system of inventory evaluation, protection and use.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and non-renewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects, including works of art, architecture, and engineering. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric and historic values, but each period represents a part of the full continuum of cultural values from the earliest to the most recent.

Cultural Site: A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural resource sites are extremely variable in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features. Prehistoric and historic sites, which are recorded as cultural resources, have sociocultural or scientific value and meet criterion of being more than fifty years old.

D

Delisting: The process of removing a species from the list of threatened and endangered species. See also *recovery*.

Deme: A subgroup of a metapopulation. In this Plan it mainly applies to large animals such as bighorn sheep and deer.

Density: The number of organisms per unit area.

Desert Advisory Council: See Resource Advisory Council.

Desert Tortoise Recovery Plan: Recovery plan written by the USFWS, specific to the listing of the desert tortoise.

Designated Right-of-Way Corridor: A parcel of land, usually linear in shape, that is identified through Secretarial Order in a land use plan or by other management decision as a preferred location for existing and future rights-of-way grants.

Glossary

Desired Beneficial Use: The use of water that is deemed beneficial and desirable; guidance for making determinations is contained in the Clean Water Act (Federal), Executive Order 12088, Porter-Cologne Act (California), Clean Water Act (Nevada), and Memorandum of Understanding between the California Water Resource Control Board, BLM, and others.

Diversity: Physical, biological, or cultural variety.

Dual-Sport Event: a motorcycle event in which vehicles must be licensed for street use and have a State off-highway vehicle tag. These events are low-speed, non-competitive, touring events.

E

Early Seral Stage: A plant community with a species composition which is 0-25% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

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

Ecological Status: The state of vegetation and soil condition of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions and amounts of plants in the community resemble that of the potential natural community. If classes are used, they should be described in ecological rather than utilitarian terms. Soil status is a measure of present vegetation and litter cover relative to the amount of cover needed on the site to prevent accelerated erosion.

Ecosystem: A complex self-sustaining natural system, which includes living and non-living components of the environment and the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

Endangered Species: as defined in the Federal Endangered Species Act, any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. For terrestrial species, the USFWS determines *endangered* status.

Energy Flows: Pertaining to the flow of energy through an ecosystem; usually described as an "energy pyramid." The rates of energy flow can vary on rangelands in both space and time. An example of energy flow is -- sunlight energy is captured and converted into carbohydrates by green plants (producers) through photosynthesis; deer (primary consumers) eat the plants; coyotes (secondary consumers) eat deer; and eagles (tertiary consumers) eat coyotes.

Glossary

Environmental Assessment (EA): A public document for which a federal agency is responsible that serves to; (a) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a finding of no significant impact; (b) aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when no Environmental Impact Statement is necessary; (c) Facilitate the preparation of a statement when one is necessary. An EA includes brief discussions of the need for the proposal and of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives.

Environmental Consequence: A temporal or spatial change in the human environment caused by an act of man. The change should be (1) perceptible, (2) measurable, and (3) relatable through a change agent to a proposed action or alternative. A consequence is something that follows an antecedent (as a cause or agent). Consequences are synonymous with impacts and effects.

Environmental Impact Statement: A written analysis of the impacts on the natural, social, and economic environment of a proposed project or resource management plan.

Ephemeral Forage: Part-time or seasonal forage; forage produced by annual forage species.

Ephemeral Range: Grazing lands that do not consistently produce forage but periodically provide annual vegetation as livestock forage.

Erosion: Detachment and movement of soil from the land by wind, water, or gravity.

Evaluation (Cultural Resources): The analysis of cultural resource inventory records, the application of professional judgement to identify characteristics that contribute to possible uses for recorded cultural resources, and the recommendation of appropriate use(s) for each resource or group of resources. National Register eligibility criteria, 36 CFR part 60, are interpreted through or with reference to BLM evaluation criteria.

Exclosure: a fence that completely surrounds a relatively small area (e.g., a wetland or research plot) to exclude large non-native animals such as cattle and burros.

Existing Right-of-Way Corridor: See Designated Right-of-Way Corridor.

Exotic Species: A species of plant or animal that is not native to the area where it is found. Any species that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized.

Glossary

F

Federal Land: Land owned by the United States, without reference to how the land was acquired or which Federal Agency administers the land, including mineral and coal estates underlying private surface.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, which gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for management, protection, development and enhancement of the public land.

Fire Management: The integration of fire protection, prescribed burning, and fire ecology knowledge into multiple use planning, decision making, and land management activities.

Forage: Browse and herbage which is available and can provide food for animals or be harvested for feeding.

Forage Utilization: An index to the extent forage is used; utilization classes range from slight (less than 20%) to severe (more than 80%).

Forb: (1) Any herbaceous plant other than those in the Gramineae (true grasses), Cyperaceae (sedges), and Juncaceae (rushes) families - i.e. any non-grasslike plant having little or no woody material on it; or (2) a broad-leaved plant whose above ground stem does not become woody or persistent.

Fundamentals of Rangeland Health: As described in 43 CFR 4180; the conditions in which rangelands are in properly functioning physical condition, ecological processes are supporting healthy biotic populations and communities, water quality is meeting State standards and BLM objectives, and Special Status Species habitat is being restored or maintained.

G

General Plan: a fundamental policy document for a local government (i.e., county or city) usually including a plan establishing zones of allowable land uses and intensity of use (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial, open space).

Grass: Any of a family of plants with narrow leaves, jointed stems, and seed-like fruit.

Grazing Capacity: The maximum stocking rate for grazing animals possible without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources.

Glossary

Grazing Preference: The total number of AUMs of livestock grazing on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee. Active preference combined with suspended non-use make up total grazing preference.

Ground Cover: Small rocks, litter, basal areas of grass and forbs, and aerial coverage of shrubs that provide protection to the soils surface (i.e. in contrast to bare ground).

Ground Water: Water beneath the land surface, in the zone of saturation.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing management tools, methods, strategies, and techniques designed to maintain or achieve healthy public lands; as defined by the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Gully Erosion: Removal of the soil leading to formations of relatively large channels or gullies cut into the soil by concentrations of runoff.

Guzzler: (general term covering guzzler, wildlife drinker, tenaja) A natural or artificially constructed structure or device to capture and hold naturally flowing water, and make it accessible to small and/or large animals. Most guzzlers involve above or below ground piping, storage tanks, and valves. Tenajas are natural depressions in rock which trap and hold water. To some tenajas, steps are sometimes added to improve access and reduce mortality from drowning.

H

Habitat: The natural environment of a plant or animal.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP): a comprehensive planning document pursuant to Section 10(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act that is a mandatory component of an incidental take permit for a project with no Federal nexus. (See Multi-Species Conservation Plan.)

Habitat Management Plan (HMP): An activity plan for wildlife/plant resources for a specific geographical area of public land. It identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Habitat Requirements: A specific set of physical and biological conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a community of species upon which the species or associations are dependent for their existence. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover and living space.

Glossary

Heavy Use: Indicates that 60 to 80% of the year's forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Herbaceous: Vegetation with little or no woody component; non-woody vegetation such as grasses and forbs.

Herd Area (HA): (related to wild horses and burros) The geographic area identified as having been used by a wild horse or burro herd as its habitat in 1971.

Herd Management Area (HMA): (Related to wild horses and burros) Area or areas established within the herd area for the maintenance of wild horses and burros.

Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP): (Related to wild horses and burros) A plan approved by an authorized officer for a specific geographical area or areas of public lands which identifies how wild horse or burro herds will be managed. The plan should identify use areas and habitat, population and habitat objectives, the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Historical Cultural Resources: Historical Cultural Resources include all mines, ranches, resorts, trails, railroads, towns, and other evidence of human use from the entrance of the Spanish to 1938.

I

Incidental Take: That take which is incidental to the pursuit of an otherwise legal activity. Legal incidental take is set forth by the USFWS in a biological opinion under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Indicator: Quantitative measure of an ecosystem element which is used to describe the condition of an ecosystem; changes in indicators over relatively short periods of time are used to measure effects of management.

Isolated Tract: A parcel of public lands surrounded by non-federal lands.

K

Key Area: A relatively small portion of land selected, based on its location, use, or grazing value, as a location for monitoring the effects of grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the effects of current grazing management over all or a part of a pasture, allotment, or other grazing unit.

Key (Forage) Species: (1) Species that, because of their importance, must be considered in a management program; or (2) forage species whose use shows the degree of use of associated species.

Glossary

L

Landscape (Scale): An area of interacting ecosystems where patterns are repeated because of geology, landform, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout the area. Applied in terms of 100's to 1000's of acres.

Land Disposal: A transaction that leads to the transfer of title of public lands from the Federal Government.

Land Tenure. Land tenure refers to ownership of a parcel of land. BLM-managed public lands are owned by the United States Government for the citizens of the United States.

Late Seral: A plant community with a species composition which is 51 to 75% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, geothermal resources, and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

Lithic: A stone or rock exhibiting modification by humans. It generally applies to projectile points, scrapers, and chips, rather than ground stone.

Lithic Scatter: A prehistoric cultural site type where flakes, cores, and stone tools are located as a result of the manufacture or use of the tools.

Locatable Minerals: A mineral subject to location under the 1872 mining laws. Examples of such minerals would be gold, silver, copper and lead as compared to oil and natural gas, which are leasable minerals.

M

Management Framework Plan (MFP): A planning decision document that establishes 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. A MFP is prepared in three steps: (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making.

Management Oversight Group (MOG): a group of high-level management representatives from USFWS, BLM, NPS, Biological Resources Division of U. S. Geological Survey, state wildlife agencies, Edwards Air Force Base, China Lake Naval Weapons Center, the Army National Training Center (Fort Irwin), and Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base. The MOG establishes overall policy for tortoise management.

Glossary

Manipulative Research: Research that introduces disturbance and other invasive methods such as digging and removing soil; clipping, burning, removing vegetation (see Research).

Metallic Minerals: Those minerals whose native form is metallic or whose principle products after refinement are metallic.

Metapopulation: An interdependent set of subgroups. In the case of mammals they are connected by corridors.

Mid Seral Stage: A plant community with a species composition which is 26 to 50% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

Mineral Entry: The location of mining claims by an individual to protect his right to a valuable mineral.

Mineral Withdrawals: Closure of land to mining laws, including sales, leasing and location, subject to valid existing rights.

Mitigation: in general, a combination of measures to lessen the impacts of a project or activity on an element of the natural environment or various other cultural or historic values; more specifically, as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality in its regulations for implementing NEPA, mitigation includes: (a) avoiding the impact, (b) minimizing the impact, (c) rectifying (i.e., repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring) the impact (d) reducing or eliminating the impact through operations during the life of the project, or (e) compensating by replacing or substituting resources (40 CFR Section 1508.20).

Moderate Use: Indicates that 40 to 60% of the current years forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Monitoring: The timed collection of information to determine the effects of resource management and to identify changing resource conditions or needs.

Mortality Rate: This is the number of deaths/100 population or group that must be subtracted from observed recruitment (e.g., foals/100 adults) to determine accurate population projections.

Motorized Vehicle Access (Open, Limited, and Closed Areas): Areas open, limited, and closed to motorized-vehicle access are clearly-defined areas designated through the land use planning process. In open areas, vehicle travel is permitted anywhere if the vehicle is operated responsibly in accordance with regulations (43 CFR 8341 and 8343), and is subject to permission of private land owners if applicable. In limited areas, motorized-vehicle access is allowed on specified routes of travel; at a minimum, use is restricted to existing routes. In closed areas, vehicle travel is not allowed.

Glossary

Motorized-Vehicle Access (Route Designation): *Casual use* of public lands in the context of motorized-vehicle access is defined as the use of routes not requiring a specific authorization. *Authorized use* in such context is the use of routes approved through a permitting process for specific activities (e.g., rights-of-way issued for development of communication sites or wind energy facilities). The designation of routes as “open,” “limited,” and “closed” is generally applicable to both casual and authorized users of BLM-managed lands. Route designations apply only to routes and portions thereof on BLM-managed lands. These designations constitute CDCA Plan decisions. Changes to these decisions would require amending the CDCA Plan.

Multiple Use: Describes a fundamental mandate to manage lands, uses, and resource values in a manner that promotes social and/or economic uses by the public in the combination with protection of cultural resources and conservation of biological resources on a sustained yield basis. Relative resource values are considered but not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest potential economic return or the greatest unit output.

Multiple Use Classification: Public lands are assigned a multiple use classification (MUC) according to the allowable level of multiple use. Class C (Controlled Use) designation is the most restrictive, and is assigned to wilderness and wilderness study areas with minimal levels of multiple use. Class L (Limited Use) lands are managed to provide lower-intensity, carefully controlled multiple use of resources while ensuring that sensitive values are not significantly diminished. Class M (Moderate Use) lands are managed to provide for a wider variety of uses such as mining, livestock grazing, recreation, utilities and energy development, while conserving desert resources and mitigating damages permitted uses may cause. Class I (Intensive Use) provides for concentrated uses of lands and resources to meet human needs.

Multi-Species Conservation Plan: same as (see) Habitat Conservation Plan.

N

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): National standards established under the Clean Air Act by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These standards prescribe levels of pollution in the outdoor air which may not be exceeded. There are two levels of NAAQS: primary, set at a level to protect the public health from air pollution damage, and secondary, set at a level to protect public welfare from air pollution damage.

Glossary

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: A law enacted on January 1, 1970 that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. It established the Council on Environmental Quality for coordinating environmental matters at the federal level and to serve as the advisor to the President on such matters. The law made all federal actions and proposals that could have significant impact on the environment subject to review by federal, state and local environmental authorities.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officers.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): A list of buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. Expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462) and Section 101(a) (1) (A) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Native (Indigenous) Species: A species of plant or animal that naturally occurs in an area and that was not introduced by humans.

Nonpoint Pollution: Pollution from scattered sources, as opposed to pollution from one location, e.g. a manufacturing plant.

Non-Use: AUMs that are normally available for use, but are not grazed through either the permittee's or BLM's request. Nonuse is applied for and authorized on an annual basis.

Nutrient Cycle: Circulation of chemical elements, such as carbon or nitrogen, in specific pathways from the non-living (abiotic) parts of the environment into the organic substances (plants and animals), and then back again into abiotic forms.

O

Objective: A measurable description of a desired future condition that specifies what is to be accomplished, location, and timeframe.

Obligate: Restricted to a particular set of environmental conditions. (opposed to facultative).

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain and not restricted to the use of roads.

Glossary

Off-Highway Vehicle Designations: BLM designations used in this document are as follows:

Open Areas: Designated areas and trails where OHVs may operate without restrictions.

Limited Areas: Designated areas and trails where the use of OHVs is subject to restrictions such as limits on the number or types of vehicles allowed or the dates and times of use, limit of use to existing roads and trails, or limit of use to designated roads and trails.

Closed Areas: Areas, roads and trails where the use of OHVs are permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.

Overgrazing: Consumption of vegetation by herbivores beyond the endurance of a plant to survive.

P

Passive research: Research that relies on observation and largely non-disturbing methods (see Research).

Pedestaling: The occurrence of plants or rocks on pedestals means that the soil has eroded away from the base of the plant or rock and it has become slightly elevated above the eroded surface of the soil. The height of the pedestals and the degree of root exposure can serve as indicators of the degree of soil loss.

Perennial Plant Species: A plant that has a life cycle of three years or more.

Perennial Stream: A stream that flows throughout the year for many years.

Permeability Rate (Soil): The rate at which gases, liquids (water), or plant roots penetrate or pass through a bulk mass of soil or a layer of soil.

Permitted Use: The number of animal unit months (AUMs) available to be grazed (authorized on a grazing permit or lease).

Permittee: A person or company permitted to graze livestock on public land.

Petroglyph: A form of rock art manufactured by incising, scratching or pecking designs into rock surfaces.

Phenology: The study of the time of appearance of characteristic periodic events in the life cycles of organisms in nature and how these events are influenced by environmental factors.

Pictograph: A form of rock art created by applying mineral based or organic paint to

Glossary

rock surfaces.

Plant Community: Assemblage of plant populations in a defined area or physical habitat; an aggregation of plants similar in species composition and structure, occupying similar habitats over the landscape (see vegetation type).

Playa: The usually dry and very level lake-plain that occupies the lowest part of a closed depression.

Predator: An animal that preys on one or more other animals.

Prescribed Fire (Prescribed Burn): A controlled wildland fire ignited by humans under specified conditions, to accomplish specific, planned resource objectives. This practice is also known as "controlled burning".

Properly Functioning Condition (Riparian-Wetlands): 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 in floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; develop root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by land form, soil, water, and vegetation.

Properly Functioning Condition (Uplands): Uplands are functioning properly when the existing vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. The functioning condition of uplands is influenced by land form, soil, water, and vegetation.

Proposed Species: A species of plant or animal formally proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Public 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, 2) lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos, and 3) lands in which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private.

Glossary

R

Range Condition: The present state of the plant community on a range site in relation to the potential natural plant community for that site.

Range Improvement: A structure, development or treatment used to rehabilitate, protect or improve the public lands to advance range betterment.

Range Management: The science and art of optimizing the returns from rangelands in those combinations most desired by and suitable to society through the manipulation of range ecosystems.

Range Site: Rangeland that differs in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community. A range site is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development. It is capable of supporting a native plant community typified by an association of species that differ from other range sites in the kind or proportion of species or in total production.

Rangeland Condition (Ecological): The present state of the vegetation on a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for that site. Rangeland condition is basically an ecological rating of the plant community. Four classes are used to express the degree to which the composition of the present plant community reflects that of the climax:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Range Site</u>
Excellent	76-100
Good	51-75
Fair	26-50
Poor	0-25.

Rangeland Condition Trend: The direction of change in Rangeland condition.

Rangewide Plan: A document entitled *Desert Tortoise Habitat Management on the Public Lands: A Rangewide Plan* and signed by the BLM Director in 1988. It established overall policy for management of desert tortoise habitat on BLM lands in Arizona, California, Nevada, and Utah.

Raptor: Any predatory bird (such as falcon, hawk, eagle, or owl) that has feet with sharp talons or claws adapted for seizing prey and a hooked beak for shearing flesh.

Recovery: Improvement in the status of a listed species to the point at which listing is no longer appropriate under the criteria set forth in Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act. Also, the process by which species and/or their ecosystems are restored so the species is self-sustaining.

Glossary

Recovery criteria: objective, measurable criteria which, when met, will lead to a species being removed from the list threatened and endangered species (i.e., delisting). Recovery criteria are a required element of a recovery plan as specified in Section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act.

Recovery Unit: The general geographic in which recovery effort needs to be directed to provide for the recovery of a species.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A continuum used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of, setting, activity and experience opportunities. Six classes are included: Primitive, Semi-primitive Non-motorized, Semi-primitive Motorized, Roaded natural, Rural and Modern urban.

Recreation Visitor Day: An aggregation of 12 visitor hours. A visitor hour is the presence of one or more persons on land and water for outdoor recreation for periods totaling 60 minutes; one person for one hour, two persons for one-half hour and so on.

Recruitment: Addition to a plant or animal population from all sources, including reproduction, immigration, and stocking.

Research: Systematic inquiry into a subject in order to discover new information or revise facts and theories. Research follows a scientific method and must be repeatable (see Passive Research and Manipulative Research).

Resource Advisory Council (RAC): A group established pursuant to 43 CFR 1780 and other authorities to advise BLM on resource management issues. In the California Desert District, the California Desert District Advisory Council serves as the RAC.

Right-of-Way (ROW): An easement or permit, which authorizes public land to be used for a specified purpose that generally requires a long narrow strip of land. Examples are roads, powerlines, pipelines, etc.

Riparian (Zone): The transition area between an aquatic ecosystem and an adjacent terrestrial ecosystem identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.

Rock Art (Petroglyph or Pictograph): An Archaic to modern cultural site type consisting of incised or painted figures such as people, animals, plants or abstracts on a rock surface.

Rock Shelter: A cultural site representative of all periods consisting of an area protected by an overhanging cliff. Often associated with the same materials as a campsite or rock art.

Glossary

Runoff: A general term used to describe the portion of precipitation on the land that ultimately reaches streams; may include channel and non-channel flow.

S

Scale: The degree of resolution used in observing and measuring ecosystem processes, structures and changes over space and time.

Season of Use: The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given area, as specified in the grazing permit and/or terms and conditions.

Section: One square mile or 640 acres.

Seeps: Groundwater discharge areas. In general, seeps have less water flow than a spring.

Seral Stage (State): Pertaining to the successional stages of biotic communities. One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given ecological site (See Succession).

Severe Use: Utilization in excess of 80%.

Sex Ratio: The ratio existing between the number of male and female animals within a given herd, band or population. It is sometimes expressed as the number of males per 100 females.

Sheet Erosion: The removal of a fairly uniform layer of soil or materials from the land surface by rainfall or runoff water.

Short-Term Impact: Ten years or less; approximately the year 2009.

Sign (Tortoise): Those elements indicating the presence of desert tortoise in an area, including live tortoise, dead tortoise or shell fragments, burrow, and scat.

Slight use: Indicates that 0 to 20% of the current years forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Soils: (a) The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as the natural medium for the growth of land plants. (b) The unconsolidated mineral matter of the surface of the earth that has been influenced by genetic and environmental factors including parent material, climate, topography, all acting over a period of time and producing soil that differs from the parent material in physical, chemical, biological and morphological properties and characteristics.

Glossary

Soil Compaction: A decrease in the volume of soil as a result of compression stress.

Soil (Ground) Cover: The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. Soil cover may include live vegetation, standing dead vegetation, plant litter, cobble, gravel, stones, and bedrock.

Soil Productivity: Capacity of a soil to produce biomass through plant growth.

Soil Series: A group of soils having genetic horizons (layers) that, except for texture of the surface layer, have similar characteristics and arrangement in the profile.

Special Area Designations: A title conferred on a specified area through a variety of mechanisms, especially the land use planning process, which identifies the area as being in need of special management attention. Examples of special area designations include Wilderness Areas, Special Recreation Management Areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Wildlife Habitat Management Areas.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): A special area designation where significant public recreation issues or management concerns occur. Special or more intensive types of management are typically needed. Detailed recreation planning is required and greater managerial investment (e.g. facilities, supervision, etc.) is likely.

Special Status Species: Plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive by Federal or State governments.

Species: A fundamental category of plant or animal classification.

Species Richness: Number of species, either in total or by some grouping scheme.

Standards for Rangeland Health: A description of conditions needed to sustain public land health; relates to all uses of the public lands.

State Land: Lands administered by any one of several State agencies.

Strip-Transect: A survey line of fixed width (usually 0-30 meters) in which a resource is measured (e.g., tortoise sign, plants).

Succession: The constantly occurring process of community change; the sequence of communities that replace one another in a given area over time; e.g. progressive development of vegetation after a fire (bare ground) towards its highest ecological expression, the climax community (old growth conifer). Theoretically, it is reasonably directional and, therefore, predictable.

Suspended Non-Use: AUMs withdrawn from authorized use; may potentially be re-authorized for use if range conditions improve.

Glossary

Sustainability: The ability to maintain diversity, productivity, resilience to stress, health, renewability, and yields of desired values, resource uses, products, or services over time in an ecosystem while maintaining its integrity.

Sustained Yield: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

T

Take: As defined in Section 3 of the Endangered Species Act, to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct relative to a listed species. Take of a listed species is prohibited by Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act except under permit from USFWS.

Terms and Conditions: Mandatory measures contained in a biological opinion from USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act or in a habitat conservation plan signed by USFWS pursuant to Section 10. The measures are mandatory for the authorization of incidental take.

Territory: The defended part of an animal's range.

Threatened Species: 1) Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and 2) as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Transition Period: The period of time between completion and adoption of these standards and guidelines and their being placed in operational effect at the individual grazing permit terms and conditions level.

Trap: A device or site used to capture and perhaps temporarily hold an animal(s).

U

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): (1) A comprehensive display of inventory and analysis of resources data and an analysis of the current use, production, condition, trend, and use potential and opportunity within a planning unit. The term and document structure is no longer a part of current planning procedures, but may still be found in older planning documents that are still applicable.

Upland: Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Glossary

Utilization: The proportion of a year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

V

Vegetative Community Type: Refers to the species or various combinations of species which dominate or appear to dominate an area of rangeland or habitat (see plant community).

Vegetation Status: The expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential plant community (see early seral, mid-seral, late seral and potential plant community).

Viable populations: Populations of plants and/or animals that persist for a specified period of time across their range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Vigor (Plant): Pertaining to characteristics such as a mix of plants with normal growth on the basis of height, color, seed production, rhizome and stolon production, and annual biomass production.

Visual Resources: Visible features of the landscape including land, water, vegetation, and animals.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): A system for evaluating the visual resources of a given area and for determining what degree of protection, rehabilitation, or enhancement is desirable and possible.

W

Water: A natural or artificial water source or site (see Guzzler).

Wetlands: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wilderness Area: An area of Federal land withdrawn by act of Congress pursuant to the Wilderness Act to be protected in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people of the United States, maintaining its primeval character and providing for visitor solitude.

Glossary

Wilderness Characteristics: Identified by congress in the 1964 wilderness act; namely size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features. It is required that the area possess at least 5,000 acres or more of contiguous or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; be substantially natural or generally appear to have been primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable; and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Wild Free-Roaming Horse or Burro: Any and all unbranded and unclaimed horses, burros and their progeny that have used public lands on or after December 15, 1971, or that do use these lands as all or part of their habitat.

Wild Horse (and Burro) Habitat Management Area: An area of the public lands which provides habitat for one or more wild horse herds.

Wildlife: All living vertebrate and invertebrate fauna that exists or potentially exists in an area.

Wildlife Habitat Management Area (WHMA): An administrative designation (BLM Manual 6780) established through the 43 CFR 1610 land use planning process. WHMA are designed to identify areas requiring special management attention for the protection of important wildlife resources. Establishment of a WHMA may include a more intensive, active management program. In practice, both ACECs and WHMAs can achieve the same resource condition objectives. However, ACEC designation connotes a higher level of political sensitivity and public awareness.

Withdrawal: The act of withholding an area of Federal land from settlement, sale, location, or entry under some or all of the general land laws, for the purpose of limiting activities under those laws in order to maintain other public values in the area or reserving the area for a particular public purpose or program; or transferring jurisdiction over an area of Federal land, other than property governed by the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, from one department, bureau, or agency to another department, bureau, or agency.

Woody Riparian Species: Plant species consisting of wood such as trees, shrubs, or bushes found in riparian-wetland areas.

Acronyms and Abbreviations

A

ACEC Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Glossary

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADC	Animal Damage Control
AIRFA	<i>American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978</i>
AML	Appropriate Management Level
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQCR	Air Quality Control Regions
AQS	Air Quality Standard
ATV	All Terrain Vehicle
AUM	Animal Unit Month

B

BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BMP	Best Management Practices
BO	Biological Opinion
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation

C

C&MUA	Classification and Multiple Use Act
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDPA	<i>California Desert Protection Act of 1994</i>
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	<i>California Environmental Quality Act</i>
CESA	<i>California Endangered Species Act</i>
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMAGR	Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range
CMP	Coordinated Management Plan
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CMP	Coordinated Resource Management and Planning
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments

D

DAG	Desert Access Guide
DEIS	Draft Environmental Impact Statement
DLE	Desert Land Entry
DOD	Department of Defense
DOI	Department of the Interior
DRP	Draft Resource Plan

Glossary

DTRP *Desert Tortoise Resource Plan June 1994*
DWMA Desert Wildlife Management Area

E

EA Environmental Assessment
EIS Environmental Impact Statement
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
ESA *Endangered Species Act of 1973*

F

FEIS Final Environmental Impact Statement
FESA *Federal Endangered Species Act*
FLPMA *Federal Land Policy and Management Act*
FMAP Fire Management Activity Plan
FY Fiscal Year

G

GEM Geology, Energy, Minerals (Survey)
GIS Geographic Information Systems
GMP General Management Plan

H

HAZMAT Hazardous Material
HCP Habitat Conservation Plan
HMA Habitat/Herd Management Area
HMAP Herd Management Area Plan
HMP Habitat Management Plan

I

IBLA Interior Board of Land Appeals

J

JTNP Joshua Tree National Park

Glossary

L

LWCF Land and Water Conservation Fund

M

MFP Management Framework Plan
MOA Memorandum of Agreement
MOG Management Oversight Group
MOU Memorandum of Understanding
MSA Management Situation Analysis
MSCP Multi-species Conservation Plan
MUC Multiple-Use Classification
MWD Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

N

NAAQS National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NECO Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert Coordinated Management Plan
NEMO Northern and Eastern Mojave Desert Coordinated Management Plan
NEPA *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969*
NHPA *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966*
NNL National Natural Landmark
NOI Notice of Intent
NPS National Park Service
NRHP National Register of Historic Places
NWR National Wildlife Refuge

O

OHV Off-Highway Vehicle
ONA Outstanding Natural Areas

P

PFC Proper Functioning Condition
PL Public Law

R

RAMP Recreation Activity/Area Management Plan
R&PP Recreation and Public Purpose (Act)

Glossary

RNA	Research Natural Area
RPS	Rangeland Program Summary
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
ROW	Right-of-Way
RU	Recovery Units

S

SCS	Soils Conservation Service
S&G	Standards and Guidelines
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SLC	State Lands Commission
SMARA	<i>Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1976</i>

T

T&E	Threatened and Endangered (Species)
----------------	-------------------------------------

U

UPA	Unusual Plant Assemblages
URTD	Upper Respiratory Tract Disease.
US	United States
USC	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geologic Service
USMC	United States Marine Corps

V

VRM	Visual Resource Management
------------	----------------------------

W

WH&B	Wild Horses and Burros
WHMA	Wildlife-Habitat Management Area