

Glossary

17(b) easement

Sec.17(b) easements are rights reserved to the U.S. on lands conveyed to Native corporations. The primary purpose of Sec. 17(b) easements is for accessing Federal, State, or municipal corporation (including boroughs) lands and navigable waters. These rights are reserved under Sec. 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) when the BLM conveys land to a Native corporation under ANCSA. The standard uses reserved to the U.S. are:

25-Foot Trail - The uses allowed on a 25-foot-wide trail easement are: travel by foot, dogsleds, animals, snowmobiles, two- and three-wheeled vehicles, and small all-terrain vehicles (less than 3,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight).

50-Foot Trail - The uses allowed on a 50-foot-wide trail easement are those allowed for a 25-foot trail plus large all-terrain vehicles (more than 3,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight), tracked vehicles, and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

60-Foot Road - The uses allowed on a 60-foot-wide road easement are those allowed for 25- and 50-foot trails plus automobiles and trucks.

1-Acre Site - The uses allowed on a site easement are: vehicle parking (e.g., aircraft, boats, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, cars, and trucks), temporary camping, and loading or unloading. Temporary camping, loading, or unloading is limited to 24 hours.

3809 regulations

Surface management regulations for locatable mineral operations.

- A -

aboriginal

Refers to those people who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, that is, North American Indian, Metis, or Inuit.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)

A law passed in 1980 designating 104 million acres for conservation by establishing or expanding national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, forest monuments, conservation areas, recreation areas, and wilderness study areas to preserve them for future generations.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)

A law passed by Congress in 1971 to settle aboriginal land claims in Alaska. Under the settlement the Natives received title to a total of over 44 million acres, to be divided among some 220 Native Villages and 12 Regional Corporations established by the act. The corporations shared in a payment of \$962,500,000.

alternative

One of a number of possible options for responding to the purpose and need for action.

ambient

Environmental or surrounding conditions

anadromous

Ascending rivers from the sea for spawning. Salmon are an anadromous species.

aquatic

Living or growing in or near water.

archaeology

The study of past human cultures through the analysis of their material and physical remains.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

An area within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife or natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

artifact

An object that was made, used, and/or transported by humans that provides information about human behavior in the past. Examples include pottery, stone tools, bones with cut marks, and coins.

assessment

The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

Athabaskan

The name of a broad group of closely-related languages that characterize the people who live in the Alaskan Interior, Canadian Interior, and the Southwestern United States.

aufeis

Ice formed by water flowing over a frozen surface. These ice forming situations can occur wherever there are continuous sources of water and freezing temperatures.

- B -

Best Management Practices

A suite of techniques that guide, or may be applied to, management actions to aid in the achieving of desired outcomes.

Break-up

The period in the spring when warming temperatures initiates snow melt, begins surface runoff to lakes and streams, and rapidly increases water levels that flush the ice out.

Bima

Oceangoing bucket line dredge used for gold mining.

- C -

candidate species

A species designated as a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service. A list of candidate species has been published in the Federal Register.

closed

Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses (BLM, H-1601-1).

closed area (*in reference to OHV designations*)

An area where OHV use is prohibited. Use of OHVs in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons (e.g., to access subsistence resources); however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorizing officer (43 CFR 8340.05(h)).

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)

A codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive Departments and agencies of the Federal Government. The Code is divided into 50 titles which represent broad areas subject to Federal regulation. Each volume of the Code is revised at least once each year and issued on a quarterly basis.

collaboration

A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions.

commercial use

Any use of public lands where money is paid for services provided.

commercial recreational use

Recreational use of public lands and related waters for business or financial gain. When any person, group, or organization makes or attempts to make a profit, receive money, amortize equipment, or obtain goods or services, as compensation from participants in recreational activities occurring on public lands, the use is considered commercial. An activity, service, or use is commercial if anyone collects a fee or receives other compensation that is not strictly a sharing of, or is in excess of, actual expenses incurred for the purpose of the activity, service or use (Guides, outfitters, air taxi operators etc.).

commercial logging and firewood sales

Commercial forest product sales that may require a competitive bidding process and are fairly large scale projects. Permits come with a fee amount set according to BLM standards.

condition class

A relative measurement describing the degree of departure from the historical fire regime. These three classes (Condition Classes 1, 2, and 3) categorize and describe vegetation composition and structure conditions that currently exist inside the fire regime groups, and serve as generalized wildfire rankings. The risk of loss of key ecosystem components from wildfires increases from Condition Class 1 (the lowest risk) to Condition Class 3 (the highest risk). (Also see *fire regime condition class*).

continentality

Continentality refers to the influence of the ocean waters and sea ice on climate patterns.

conveyed

Title to land was transferred from one party to another. The United States conveys title to land to Native corporations by patent and interim conveyance (IC) and to the State of Alaska by patent and tentative approval (TA).

cratering

Shallow depressions in the vegetation mat extending down into organic material or deeper into mineral soil. Cratering is caused by grazing animals pawing through the snow to reach underlying vegetation.

Cryogenic/cryogenic processes

Those processes related to low temperatures or the effects of freezing.

cumulative effects

Impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

curb weight

The weight of a vehicle with a full tank of fuel and all fluids topped off, but with no one sitting inside or on the vehicle and no cargo loaded.

- D -

(d)(1) withdrawal

A withdrawal made under section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for study to determine the proper classification of the lands and to determine the public values of the lands which need protection.

designated trail

A trail that is marked on the ground and mapped for public use. It is an administrative and not a legal designation. In some areas, motorized travel may be limited to designated trails.

developed recreation

Recreation dependent on facilities provided to enhance recreation opportunities in concentrated use areas.

diabase dikes

A tabular body of igneous rock of basaltic composition consisting essentially of labradorite and pyroxene and where the labradorite is imbedded in large pyroxene crystals.

diurnal

Periodic day to night change or alteration.

dispersed recreation

Recreation activities of an unstructured type which are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

drainage

A general term applied to the removal of surface or subsurface water from a given area either by gravity or by pumping.

- E -

ecosystem

A naturally occurring, self-maintained system of varied living and non-living interacting parts that are organized into biophysical and human dimension components.

ecosystem health

A condition where the parts and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system's capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for uses, values, and services of the ecosystem are met.

endangered species

An animal or plant species designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive Federal protection status because the species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range.

environmental analysis

A comprehensive evaluation of alternative actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, including physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions.

environmental assessment (EA)

A concise analysis of the significance of a given project's potential environmental consequences. An EA is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and determines if an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed.

environmental impact statement (EIS)

A detailed statement of a given project's environmental consequences, including unavoidable adverse environmental effects, alternatives to the proposed action, the relationship between local short-term uses and long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

environmental justice

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH)

Essential Fish Habitat means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. EFH is defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265).

Exception (of a lease stipulation)

A lease stipulation exception is a one-time exemption to a lease stipulation; exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis.

Executive Order

A rule or order having the force of the law.

existing trail

A trail that exists on the ground but has not been inventoried and evaluated by the managing agency to determine use sustainability.

extensive recreation management area (ERMA)

A public lands unit identified in land use plans containing all acreage not identified as a special recreation management area. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature.

- F -

Fairbanks District

The geographic region that defines the BLM public lands administered by the BLM Fairbanks District Office.

Fairbanks District Office

One of the three BLM Field Offices located in Alaska. The Fairbanks District Office is responsible for managing approximately 59 million acres of public lands in northern Alaska.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

A law passed in 1976 to establish public land policy, guidelines for its administration, and provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands.

fire dependent ecosystem

A vegetative community that has evolved adaptations to fire such as reliance on fire as a disturbance agent, protection of a species against the effects of fire, or strengthening or enhancement of a species through a fire event.

fire frequency

A general term referring to the reoccurrence of fire in a given area over time. Also referred to as fire cycle.

fire regime

A description of the patterns of fire occurrences, frequency, size, severity, and, sometimes, vegetation and fire effects, in a given area or ecosystem. A fire regime is a generalization based on fire histories at individual sites. There are five standard fire regimes, but only three fire regimes are represented in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area:

- Fire Regime III, with a fire frequency of 35-100+ years, with a mixed fire type,
- Fire Regime IV, with a fire frequency of 35-100+ years, with a stand replacement fire type, and
- Fire Regime V, with a fire frequency of 100+ years, with a stand replacement fire type.

Fire Regime Condition Class (FRCC)

(1) An interagency, standardized tool for determining the degree of departure from reference condition vegetation, fuels, and disturbance regimes. Assessing FRCC can help guide management objectives and set priorities for treatments.

(2) A classification of the amount of departure from the natural fire regime. There are three FRCCs. They include three condition classes for each fire regime. The classification is based on a relative measure describing the degree of departure from the historical natural fire regime. This departure results in changes to one (or more) of the following ecological components:

vegetation characteristics (species composition, structural stages, stand age, canopy closure, and mosaic pattern); fuel composition; fire frequency, severity, and pattern; and other associated disturbances (e.g. insect and diseased mortality, grazing, and drought). The three Condition Classes are:

Condition Class I: Within the natural (historical) range of variability of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.

Condition Class II: Moderate departure from the natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.

Condition Class III: High departure from the natural (historical) regime of vegetation characteristics; fuel composition; fire frequency, severity and pattern; and other associated disturbances.

fire return interval

The number of years between two successive fire events for a given area.

fire severity

The degree to which a site has been altered or disrupted by fire; loosely, a product of fire intensity and residence time. In Alaska, fire severity refers to the amount of organic layer removed by a fire event.

FLPMA 302 permits

Section 302 of FLPMA provides for use, occupancy, and development of public lands with consideration for multiple use and sustained yield by requiring permits for utilization of public lands for habitation, cultivation, and the development of small trade or manufacturing concerns.

Federal Register

A daily publication that reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

fishery

Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

Free use permit

The free use application permit is used for various vegetative and mineral products applied to domestic purposes or by a non-profit agency (43 CFR 5500 and 43 CFR 3604).

frost boil

See *permafrost*.

fuels treatment

The development and implementation of prescribed fire or a mechanical or chemical treatment to wildland fuels in given areas to meet resource objectives.

- G -

Generally Allowed Uses

The State of Alaska's uses and activities that are generally allowed on State land. For travel across State land (OHV use) it allows, "Using a highway vehicle with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a pickup truck, or using a recreational-

type vehicle off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler, on or off an established road easement, if use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion. An authorization is required from ADF&G for any motorized travel in fish bearing streams” (ADNR 2004). All generally allowed uses are subject to conditions outlined in 11 AAC 96.005.

Geographic Information System (GIS)

An information processing technology to input, store, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

goal

A broad statement of a desired outcome that is usually not quantifiable (e.g., “maintain ecosystem health and productivity”).

Gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR)

GVWR is the maximum allowable total weight of a vehicle that is loaded to capacity, including the weight of the vehicle itself plus fuel, passengers, cargo, and other miscellaneous items such as extra aftermarket parts, as specified by the manufacturer.

- H -

hummock

See *permafrost*.

hydrocarbons

A group of chemical compounds containing only hydrogen and carbon; these include petrol, diesel, gas, oil, and some solvents

Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC)

A hierarchical system of numbering watersheds initiated by the U.S. Water Resources Council (1970) and expanded by Seaber et al. (1987) for use by water-resource organizations as a standardized base “for locating, storing, retrieving, and exchanging hydrologic data.” The U.S., including Alaska, Hawaii, and parts of the Caribbean, is divided into 21 major hydrologic regions, then subdivided into 222 sub-regions, 352 accounting units, and 2,149 cataloging units. At each division, a 2-digit numerical code is added so that each watershed is assigned a unique numerical identifier.

- I -

ice scour

Removal of vegetation, or gouging of holes in loose soil or soft bedrock from the movement of ice over the land surface.

ice wedge

See *permafrost*.

Implementation plan

A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a Resource Management Plan. Also called an Activity Plan.

invasive species

Organisms that have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. Executive Order 13112 focuses on organism whose presence is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harms to human health. See also *noxious weeds*.

- L -

land status

The legal standing of land within BLM boundaries. Land status includes private, military, State, State-selected, Native, Native-selected, and unencumbered public lands.

land use allocation

The identification in a Resource Management Plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

leasable minerals

Minerals subject to exploration and development under leases, permits, and licenses under various mineral leasing acts. Leasable minerals include oil, gas, and coal. See also *locatable minerals*.

lease

A means of allowing long-term use of public lands without transferring ownership of that land.

Lease stipulation (oil and gas lease)

Lease stipulations are conditions of lease issuance that provide protection for other resource values or land uses by establishing authority for substantial delay or site changes, or the denial of operations within the terms of the lease contract. Lease stipulations clarify the BLM's intent to protect known resources or resource values.

lens

See *permafrost*.

lessee

A person or entity holding record title in a lease issued by the United States (see 43 CFR 3160.0-5).

limited

Generally denotes that an area or roads and trails are available for a particular use or uses (BLM, H-1601-1). See also *limited area* below.

limited area (in reference to OHV designations)

An area restricted at certain times, in certain areas, and/or to certain vehicular uses. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be grouped into the following categories: number of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing road and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(g)).

locatable minerals

Minerals subject to appropriation under the mining laws and 43 CFR 3809. Locatable minerals include base metals (e.g. copper, lead, and zinc), noble metals (e.g. silver and gold), nickel, iron, platinum group elements, bentonite, gem and semiprecious gemstones, and nephrite jade. See also *leasable minerals*.

loess

A wind deposited silt.

- M -

major land resource areas (MLRAs)

Geographically-associated land resource units classified by the dominant physical characteristics: land use, elevation and topography, climate, water, soils, and vegetation.

Management Framework Plan

A planning decision document prepared before the effective date of the regulations implementing the land use planning provisions of FLPMA. The MFP establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, and objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

A formal, written agreement between organizations or agencies that presents the relationship between the entities for purposes of planning and management.

meristic

Any fish body form characteristic that can be measured or counted. For example: fin rays, pyloric caeca, gill rakers, vertebrae, and scales.

metasediments

A metamorphic rock of sedimentary origins.

metaliferous

Yielding or containing metal.

mine

An opening or excavation in the earth for extracting minerals.

mineral entry

The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any minerals it may contain.

mineral materials

The BLM authorizes disposal of mineral materials such as gravel, sand, petrified wood, stone, cinders, pumice, pumicite, and clay to third parties on unimproved lands. Materials cannot be bartered or sold and must be used in connection with project construction or maintenance.

mitigation measures

Actions taken to reduce adverse impacts on resource values.

model

An analytical framework based on the past behavior of numeric variables that is able to predict the future behavior of those variables. 10 CFR Part 960.2 defines a model as “a conceptual description and the associated mathematical representation of a system, subsystem, component, or condition that is used to predict changes from a baseline state as a function of internal and/or external stimuli and as a function of time and space.”

Modification (of a lease stipulation)

A lease stipulation modification is a change to the provisions of a lease stipulation either temporarily or for the term of the lease.

monitoring

The process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated results of a management plan are being realized, or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

multiple-use

According to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, the management of all the various renewable surface resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

muskeg

A water-soaked form of peat or moss, 3-10 feet thick. Similar to a bog.

- N -

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

An act mandating an environmental analysis and public disclosure of Federal actions.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: 1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past, 2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely un-developed but accessible in places by roads, and 3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shore-lines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Native-selected

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 gave Alaska Natives an entitlement of 44 million acres to be selected from a pool of public lands specifically defined and withdrawn by the Act for that purpose. Some ANCSA corporations filed selections in excess of their

entitlements. Similar to overselections by the State, some of the Native-selected lands will not be conveyed and will be retained in federal ownership. Native-selected lands constitute approximately 15 percent of the planning area and 35% of the BLM-managed lands.

no action alternative

The most likely condition expected to exist if current management practices continue unchanged. The analysis of this alternative is required for Federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Non-commercial recreational use

Recreational use of the public lands and related waters for non-financial gain.

No Surface Occupancy (NSO)

A limitation of oil and gas leasing. It denotes that the area is open for mineral leasing but analysis has found that in order to protect other resource values, no well sites, tank batteries, or similar facilities are to occupy the surface of specified lands unless site-specific analysis shows that resource values can be protected.

noxious weed

A plant species designated by Federal or State law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or non-native, new, or not common to the U.S. See also *invasive species*.

- O -

objective

A concise statement of a specific desired outcome for a resource. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable.

off-highway vehicle (OHV)

Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle being used for emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorizing officer, or otherwise officially approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(a)).

open

Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses (BLM, H-1601-1). See also *open area* below.

open area (*in reference to OHV designations*)

Any area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in subparts 8341 and 8342 of the Title 43 CFR (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(f)).

organic material

Referring to or derived from living organisms; compounds containing carbon.

outstandingly remarkable value

As defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, an “outstandingly remarkable value” is the characteristic of a river segment that is judged to be a rare, unique, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or natural scale. Values can be recreational, scenic, geological, historical, cultural, biological, botanical, ecological, heritage, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or research-related.

- P -

paleontological

Of or relating to past geological periods. Paleontological resources include fossils of shellfish, swamp forests, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric plants and animals, including both vertebrates and invertebrates, and direct evidence of their presence (tracks, worm burrows, etc).

paleontology

The study of ancient plants and animals now known only from fossil remains.

particulates

Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes or smog, found in the air or emissions.

permafrost

Soil, sand, gravel, or bedrock that has remained below 32° F for two or more years (Muller 1945). Permafrost features include: frost boils (accumulation of excess water and mud in subsurface materials during spring thaw which may break through the surface), hummock (a mound of broken ice projecting upward, formed by ice deformation), ice wedge (a build up of ice in frozen soil, that is wedge-shaped in cross-section), ice lenses (accumulation of ice in cavities and hollows in the soil), pingos (an arctic mound or conical hill, consisting of an outer layer of soil covering a core of solid ice), polygonal ground (a type of patterned ground in areas of ice wedges), and solifluction lobes (an isolated tongue-shaped feature formed by rapid solifluction (downhill movement of soil) on a slope).

permit

A means of authorizing use of public lands in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse impacts and user conflicts. A permit does not transfer ownership of the land, it simply allows the permittee to use the land in a pre-determined fashion for a set amount of time.

pingo

See *permafrost*.

planning area

The region within which the BLM will make decisions during a planning effort. A planning area boundary includes all lands regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM jurisdiction (including subsurface minerals).

play

When referring to oil and gas resources, play is defined as a specific combination of geological features with perceived potential for oil and gas accumulation.

polar jet

The polar jet is a mass of strong upper-level winds that circulate from west to east across the North Pacific. The position of these winds, often simply called the jet stream, is important because air temperatures are often 10-20° F cooler to the north of the polar jet than air to the south. While the path of the polar jet often follows a seasonal pattern, north of the Alaska Peninsula in summer and south towards the Gulf of Alaska in winter, the jet can shift large distances in a few days, altering storm tracks and producing major weather changes. At other times, the jet may remain stationary for several weeks or more, blocking weather changes. During the winter, this can produce extremely cold, calm weather in Interior Alaska.

pollutants

Any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

polygonal ground

See *permafrost*.

potential responsible parties

A “potentially responsible party” under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is any “person” who may be held liable for the costs of cleaning up hazardous substances released into the environment. A “person” can include an individual, corporation, partnership, municipality, or State or Federal agency who is a:

- Current owner or operator – A person who currently owns the land and operates the facility where the hazardous substances are located (regardless of whether the activity has occurred during the current owner or operator's involvement at the site),
- Past owner or operator – A person who owned or operated the land or facility at the time hazardous substances were disposed of at the site (requires proof that disposal occurred during the person's ownership or operation),
- Generator – A person who “arranged for” the disposal or treatment of the hazardous substances at the site (commonly known as the “generator” of the hazardous substances), or
- Transporter – A person who transported the hazardous substances to the site.

prehistory

Any period in the past for which there is no contemporary written historical evidence. For the Copper River Basin, “prehistory” refers to any events occurring before 1850.

prescribed fire

A fire purposefully ignited to meet specific objectives. Prior to ignition, a written, approved fire plan must exist and legal requirements must be met.

proliferation

To spread or grow by rapid production of new parts such as unmanaged growth of trails.

public land

Land or interest in land owned by the U.S. and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the U.S. acquired ownership, except land located on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held for the benefit of Native Americans, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

Public Land Order (PLO)

Congressional orders defining withdrawals of public lands by statute or secretarial order from operation of some or all of the public land laws.

Public Water Systems

Public water supply systems are defined as systems that provide water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serve an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year. The locations of public water supply systems and Source Water Protection Areas are available from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water and Wastewater Program.

- R -

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act

An act authorizing the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to State and local governments and to qualified non-profit organizations.

R&PP lease

A lease issued by the Federal government for use of public lands to serve community and recreational purposes on public lands by issuing leases for uses such as parks, cemetery, and landfills.

record of decision

A public document associated with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identifies all alternatives, provides the final decision, the rationale behind that decision, and commitments to monitoring and mitigation.

recreation area management plan (RAMP)

An activity level plan to develop more specific management guidelines for a special recreation management area.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

A framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for obtaining experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum divided into seven classes: Primitive (P), Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM), Roaded Natural (RN), Roaded Modified (RM), Rural (R), Urban (U), Remote Developed Lakeside (RDL), and Special (S).

Required Operating Procedures (ROPs)

ROPs are requirements, procedures, management practices, or design features that the BLM adopts as operational requirements. In this Draft RMP/EIS, the ROPs would be common to all action alternatives. ROPs would apply to all permitted activities, including FLPMA leases and permits, Special Recreation Permits, oil and gas operations, mining Plans of Operation, and Right-of-Way authorizations. Obviously, not all ROPs would apply to all permitted activities. ROPs have been developed to ensure that objectives identified within the Alaska Land Health Standards are met when carrying out permitted activities and management practices.

Research Natural Area (RNA)

An area that is established and maintained for the primary purpose of research and education because the land has one or more of the following characteristics: 1) a typical representation of a common plant or animal association; 2) an unusual plant or animal association; 3) a threatened or endangered plant or animal species; 4) a typical representation of common geologic, soil, or water features; or 5) outstanding or unusual geologic, soil, or water features. Uses of RNAs are defined in 43 CFR 8223.1.

right-of-way (ROW)

The legal right to pass over another owner's land, or the area over which a right-of-way exists.

right-of-way avoidance area

Areas where ROW should be avoided but may be allowed with special stipulations.

riparian corridor

Wetlands that are transitional between permanently saturated lowlands and drier upland sites. Riparian habitat is characterized by hydrophytic vegetation (plants that often grow in water or wet soils) that grows in nonhydric (moist but not wet) soils.

R.S. 2477

A provision originally part of the 1866 Mining Act that states in its entirety, "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." In 1873, the provision was separated from the Mining Act and reenacted as Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477. In 1938, it was recodified as 43 U.S.C. Section 932. FLPMA repealed both the 1866 Mining Act and R.S. 2477, but all rights-of-way that existed on the date of the repeal (October 21, 1976) were preserved under 43 U.S.C. Section 1769. The State of Alaska recognizes approximately 650 R.S. 2477 routes throughout the State. The assertion of these routes has not been recognized and current BLM policy is to defer any processing of R.S. 2477 assertions except where there is a demonstrated and compelling need to make a determination.

- S -

salable minerals

See *mineral materials*.

scoping

The process used to determine, through public involvement, the range of issues that the planning process should address.

sedentary

Abiding in one place; not migratory; not moving.

sedimentary

Having the quality of being layered. Sedimentary rocks are those that were created through the deposition of layers of materials that were compressed into hard rock.

Sensitive Species

Those wildlife, fish, or plant species designated by the BLM Alaska State Director, usually in cooperation with the State agency responsible for managing the species, as sensitive. They

are: 1) species under status review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service; 2) species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may be necessary; 3) species with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or 4) species inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

seral

Relating to ecological communities where all successional stages of biotic development are represented.

snowmachine

A motor vehicle of 850 pounds or less gross vehicle weight, primarily designed to travel over ice or snow, and supported, in part, by skis, belts, cleats, or low-pressure tires (11 AAC 12.340(9)).

small vegetative contract sale

Sales of vegetative products that are small scale and generally do not require a competitive bidding process. I.e: mushroom harvest, spruce cone harvest, or Christmas tree harvest.

solifluction lobe

See *permafrost*.

Source Water

Source water is untreated water from streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers that is used as a supply of drinking water. Source water areas are the sources of drinking water delineated and mapped by the states for each federally-regulated public water system.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

Areas where the management emphasis is on recreation, though other resource uses and development are allowed.

special recreation permit

A means of authorizing recreational uses of public lands and waters. Special recreation permits are issued for specific recreational uses as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses. There are four types of permits: commercial, competitive, organized groups/events, and individuals or groups in special areas.

Special Status Species

Special status species include the following: endangered species, threatened species, proposed species, candidate species, state-listed species, and BLM sensitive species.

species

Any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants (and in the case of plants, any varieties), and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife which interbreeds when mature.

Standard Lease Terms (SLT)

Denotes that no special stipulations are applied to a lease. Current environmental protection laws and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act orders provide the direction for the oil and gas operation.

stand replacement fire

A fire which kills all or most of the living overstory trees in a forest and initiates forest succession or regrowth. Also explicitly describes the nature of fire in grasslands and some shrublands.

State-selected

These are formerly unappropriated and unreserved public lands that were selected by the State of Alaska as part of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958 and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. Until conveyance, State-selected lands outside of National Park system lands or National Wildlife refuges will continue to be managed by the BLM. ANILCA allowed for overselection by the State by up to 25 percent of the entitlement (sec. 906 (f)). Therefore, some State-selected lands will eventually be retained in long-term Federal ownership. State-selected lands constitute approximately 12 percent of the planning area and 28% of BLM-managed land.

Stipulations (Stips)

Stipulations are specific to oil and gas exploration, development, and production. They constitute restrictions on the conduct of operations under a lease. As part of a lease contract, lease stipulations are specific to the lessee. All oil and gas activity permits subsequently issued to a lessee will comply with the lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review. The *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations* in Appendix A are examples of stipulations.

subsistence/subsistence use

Relying on fish, wildlife and other wild resources for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, handicrafts, and trade. An Alaskan resident living in a rural area may participate in Federal subsistence hunting on certain unencumbered BLM lands.

succession

The replacement in time of one plant community with another. The prior plant community (or successional stage) creates conditions that are favorable for the establishment of the next community.

sustained-yield

According to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land.

- T -

talik

A layer of unfrozen sediment located beneath a lake and river that is deeper than about 6 feet that remains unfrozen during winter.

thermokarsting

Ground subsidence due to the thawing of permafrost.

threatened species

A designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when a plant or animal species is likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

tiering

The coverage of broad, general information in environmental impact statements, with subsequent site-specific analyses incorporating that general information by reference.

tundra

A level or undulating treeless plain characteristic of northern arctic regions in both hemispheres. It consists of black mucky soil with a permanently frozen subsoil, but supports a dense growth of mosses and lichens, and dwarf herbs and shrubs, often showy-flowered.

turbidity

The opaque or dark color in water due to fine suspended sediment, algal growth, or dissolved chemicals.

tussock

A compact tuft of grass or sedges, or an area of raised solid ground, which is held together by roots of low vegetation, found in a wetland or tundra.

tussock tundra

A tundra landscape with a herbaceous vegetation of tussock forming plants, particularly *Eriophorum* spp.

- U -

unencumbered/unencumbered BLM lands

Public lands that have not been selected by the State or Native organizations. These are the lands that will be retained in long-term Federal ownership.

use of wildland fire

A wildland fire used to protect, maintain and enhance resources and, as nearly as possible, be allowed to function in its natural ecological role.

- V -

viewshed

A region or area that can be seen from a particular location.

Visitor use day (VUD)

One person present in an area for any amount of time on one day. For example, 100 visitor use days could be one person present for 100 days, 10 people present for 10 days each; or 25 people present for 4 days each.

Visual Resource Management

A means of managing visual resources by designating areas as one of four classes: Class I: maintaining a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans; Class II: designing proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape; Class III: designing proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape; and Class IV: providing for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape.

- W -

Waiver (of a lease stipulation)

A lease stipulation waiver is a permanent exemption to a lease stipulation.

Wild and Scenic River

A river that is part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In Alaska, most Wild and Scenic Rivers were designated through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Glennallen Field Office manages two of these rivers: the Delta National Wild and Scenic River, and the Gulkana National Wild River. See also *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*.

wildfire

An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put out the fire.

wildland fire

Any nonstructural fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in an area under the fire management jurisdiction of a land management agency. This term encompasses fires previously called "wildfires."

wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP)

A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire use event.

Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA)

A decision making process that evaluates alternative wildfire suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and economic criteria and provides a record of those decisions.

wildland fire use

The application of the appropriate management response to naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in predefined designated areas.

wildland urban interface

The line, area, or zone where structures and other human developments meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetation fuels.

withdrawal

Federal land set aside and dedicated to a present, governmental use; public land set aside for some other public purpose, e.g., pending a determination of how the land is to be used; an action approved by the Secretary or a law enacted by Congress that closes land to specific uses under the public land laws (usually sale, settlement, location, and entry), or limits use to maintain public values or reserves area for particular public use or program, or that transfers jurisdiction of an area to another Federal agency.