

CHAPTER 5. REFERENCES AND GLOSSARY

5.1 References

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5.2 Glossary

This section provides a glossary of definitions of terms used in the EIS.

Allotment: An area of land assigned to one or more livestock operators for grazing livestock.

Alternatives: Different ways of addressing the environmental issues and management activities considered in the environmental impact statement. These serve to provide the decision maker and the public a clear basis for choices among options.

Aquatic habitat: Habitat that is inundated by water with a frequency sufficient to support a prevalent form of aquatic life.

Classification: The process whereby designated rivers are classified as wild, scenic, and/or recreational according to criteria established in Section 2(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Cultural resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric or historic values.

Designation: The process whereby rivers are added to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System by an act of Congress or by administrative action of the Secretary of the Interior with regard to state-designated rivers under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Economic impact: The change, positive or negative, in economic conditions that directly or indirectly result from an activity, project or program.

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

Eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion into the National wild and Scenic Rivers System through the determination (professional judgment) that is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended): Federal law to ensure that no federal action will jeopardize federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species of plants or animals.

Ephemeral: Streams or drainages that flow in direct response to precipitation for a short period of time. The precipitation events are primarily summer storms or sudden spring snowmelt. The duration of flow is typically a day to a week. Ephemeral streams do not usually support riparian vegetation.

Existing right-of-way corridor: A parcel of land, with fixed limits or boundaries that is being used as the location for one or more rights-of-way.

Free-flowing: as applied to any river or section of a river, means existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic rivers system shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion: Provided, That this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system (WSR Act, Section 16(b)).

Intermittent: Streams that flow for a longer period of time than ephemeral streams. The duration of flow is typically several months and is usually in response to spring snowmelt. Intermittent streams typically do not have surface flows of water during the winter and summer. However, many intermittent streams have riparian vegetation supported by the surface flows and shallow groundwater that is likely perennial.

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

Locatable minerals: Any valuable mineral that is not saleable or leasable, including gold, silver, copper, tungsten, uranium, etc.

Mineral material disposals: Disposal of sand, building and decorative stone, gravel, pumice, clay and other mineral materials and petrified wood through permit or contract for salt or fee.

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

Motorized travel: Travel in any motorized vehicle for recreation purposes; includes driving or riding in off-highway areas.

National Register of Historic Places: A list of districts, sites, structures, and objects significant in American history and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: Established by the Wilderness Act of 1968 to protect rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in free-flowing conditions.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values...” Other similar values which may be considered include ecological, biological, or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, scientific, or research values.

Patent: A government instrument (or deed) that conveys legal title for public land to an individual or another government entity.

Perennial: Streams that typically flow year-round. Perennial streams may have interrupted surface flow characterized by stream segments with flowing water or a series of pools between sections of dry to moist stream channel. Stream segments with interrupted flow are supported by perennial, shallow ground water. During drought, a perennial stream may go dry.

Placer mining: That form of mining in which the surface soil is washed for gold or other valuable minerals.

Preferred alternative: The alternative, in the environmental impact statement, which management has initially selected as offering the most acceptable resolution for the issues and concerns.

“Recreational” river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers which are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 2(b))

Right-of-way: The legal right for use, occupancy, or access across land or water areas for a specified purpose or purposes. Also the lands covered by such a rights.

Riparian habitat: Areas of land directly influences by permanent water and having visible characteristics, such as a vegetation type which reflects the presence of permanent surface or subsurface water.

River: a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. (WSR Act, Section 16(a))

River segment/corridor: The portion of the river segment and corridor authorized either by Congress or an agency for study and its immediate environment comprising a minimum area extending at least ¼ mile fro each river bank. For designated rivers, the river and adjacent land within the authorized boundaries.

“Scenic” river areas: Those rivers, or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads. (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 2(b))

Scoping Process: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to ge addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action.

Suitability Evaluation Report: The report on the eligibility and suitability of a study river for the inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Section 4(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, or the Secretary of Agriculture—or both—to prepare and submit the report to the President. The President transmits the report with his recommendation(s) to the Congress.

Wetlands: Lands including swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as wet meadows, spring areas, river overflow areas, mud flats, and natural ponds.

Wild and Scenic River Act: National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (“the Act”) of 1968, as amended, Public Law 90-542 (16 U.S.C. 1271-87, et seq.).

“Wild” river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers, which are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of America. (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 2(b)).

Withdrawal: The term “withdrawal” means 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, as amended (40 U.S.C. 472) from one department, bureau or agency to another department, bureau or agency (Federal Land Management Policy Act (as amended), 1976).