

88.0 GLOSSARY

Action: All activities or programs of any kind authorized, funded or carried out, in whole or in part, by Federal agencies in the United States or upon the high seas. An action includes the granting of permits, contracts, or leases.

Action Area: All areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the Federal action and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.

Affected Environment: Surface resources (including Socioeconomic elements) within or adjacent to a geographic area that could potentially be affected by proposed activities. The environment of the area to be affected by the Alternatives under consideration.

Air Quality Classes: Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act that limits the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant, Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate, well-controlled growth would be permitted, and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be allowed.

Airshed: A volume of air defined by geographical boundaries.

Alignment: The specific, surveyed route of the road.

Alluvial Material: Material transported and deposited by running water in riverbeds, lakes, alluvial fans and valleys. Includes clay, silt, sand, gravel, and mud.

Alternative: A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis as expressed in goals and objectives. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision making. One Alternative need not substitute for another in all respects.

Analysis Area: A delineated area of land subject to analysis.

Animal Unit Month: The amount of forage necessary to sustain one cow and one calf or its equivalent for one month.

Applicant Committed Measures: Steps planned or taken toward the accomplishment of a purpose.

Aquatic Ecosystem: All organisms in a water-based community plus the associated environmental factors.

Aquatic Wildlife: Animals who live in a water-based ecosystem.

Aquifer: A layer of geologic material that contains water.

Attainment Area: An airshed or volume of air defined primarily by geographical boundaries in which the concentrations of criteria pollutants do not exceed the National Ambient Air Quality

Standards.

Average Annual Daily Traffic: The total volume passing a point or segment of a highway facility, in both directions, for one year, divided by the number of days in the year.

Beneficial Effect: A "Beneficial Effect" decision is warranted when a project or activity will substantially improve the habitat or status of a listed species or its habitat.

Best Management Practices: Best management practices (BMPs) means schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures, and other management practices. BMPs also include treatment requirements, operating procedures, and practices.

Big Game Winter Range: The area available to and used by big game (large mammals normally managed for sport hunting) through the winter season.

Big Game: Larger species of wildlife that are hunted such as elk, deer, moose, and mountain lion.

Biological Diversity: The diversity or numbers of species that collectively represent the living plants and animals within a local, regional, or continental landscape.

Biological Assessment: Information prepared by or under the direction of the Federal agency concerning listed species that may be present in the action area and the evaluation of potential effects of the action on such species and habitats. The purpose of the biological assessment is to evaluate the potential effects of the action on listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat, and determine whether any such species and habitats are likely to be adversely affected by the action. Biological Assessments are conducted for major Federal construction projects requiring an EIS.

Biological Evaluation: A documented Forest Service activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or Proposed Action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species.

Biological Opinion: An official report by the USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) issued in response to a formal Forest Service request for consultation or conference. It states whether an action is likely to result in jeopardy to a listed species or adverse modification of its critical habitat.

Biotic Condition Index: Relative values of a biological community based on a comparison of the observed to an "expected" community at the area of interest.

Broadcast Seeding: Distribution of seed by a fan or hand spreading.

Browse: That part of the current leaf and twig growth of shrubs, wood vines, and trees available for animal consumption.

Bureau of Land Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior agency responsible for managing most Federal government subsurface minerals. It has surface-management responsibility for Federal lands designated under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Candidate Species: Any species not yet officially listed but that are undergoing a status review or are proposed for listing according to the *Federal Register* notices published by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce.

Contrast: The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color, or texture of an area being viewed.

Colluvial: Consisting of a mixture of soil and angular fragments of rock which have accumulated at the foot and on slopes of mountainsides under the influence of gravity.

Council on Environmental Quality: An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their affect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Critical Habitat: Specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species; and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection. Critical habitat shall not include the entire geographic area which can be occupied by the threatened and endangered species.

Crucial Habitat: A biological feature that, if lost, would adversely affect the species.

Cultural Resources Inventory: A field inventory designed to locate cultural resource sites within an area.

Cultural Resources Inventory Classes:

Class I - An existing data survey (i.e. file search). This is an inventory of a study area to (1) provide a narrative overview of cultural resources by using existing information; and (2) compile existing cultural resource site record data on which to base the development of the research designs and studies.

Class II - A sampling field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area so that an estimate can be made of the cultural resources for the entire area.

Class III - An intensive field inventory designed to locate, from surface and exposed profile indicators, all cultural resource sites within a portion of an area.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and nonrenewable remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works or art, architecture, and natural features that were of importance in human events.

Cumulative Impact: The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

dBA - The sound pressure levels in decibels measured with a frequency weighing network corresponding to the A-scale on a standard sound level meter. The A-scale tends to suppress

lower frequency that occur below 1,000 Hz.

Decibels - Units for describing amplitude of sound frequencies to which the human ear is sensitive.

Dispersed Recreation: That portion of outdoor recreation use that occurs outside of developed sites in the unroaded and roadbed Forest environment (i.e., hunting, backpacking, and camping).

Displacement: As applied to wildlife, forced shifts in the patterns of wildlife use either in location or timing of use.

Diversity: (1) The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area; or (2) The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a Land Resource Management Plan (36 CFR Part 219.3).

Duration: The length of time an activity and its impacts will be taking place.

Ecosystem: All organisms in a community plus the associated environmental factors.

Effects (also see Impacts):

Direct Effects - Caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Indirect Effects - Caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related affects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Endangered Species: Any species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental Analysis: An analysis of Alternative actions and their predictable short and long-term environmental effects that include physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions.

Environmental Assessment: A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a FONSI. It includes a brief discussion of the need for the proposal, Alternatives considered, environmental impact of the Proposed Action and Alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted. Prepared by the responsible Federal agency consistent with 40 CFR 1508.9.

Environmental Impact Statement: A formal public document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of the proposed project or action and released for comment and review. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ guidelines, and directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

Erosion Hazard: The probability of soil loss resulting from complete removal of vegetation and litter. It is an interpretation based on potential soil loss in relation to tolerance values.

Ephemeral stream. Typically dry, except during direct and short-term response to storm runoff or

snowmelt; is not influenced by the water table.

Erosion: (1) The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geological agents including such processes as gravitational creep; or (2) Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity.

Exotic: Foreign, not native

Exploration: Drilling, excavating, and geological, geophysical or geochemical surveying operations designed to obtain detailed data on the physical and chemical characteristics of Federal coal and its environment including the strata below the Federal coal, overburden, and strata above the Federal coal, and the hydrologic conditions associated with the Federal coal.

Fault: A fracture in bedrock along which there has been vertical and/or horizontal movement caused by differential forces in the earth's crust.

Faulting: Relative displacement of adjacent bedrock along a fracture.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on Management October 21, 1976. Established public land policy; to establish guidelines for its administration; to protect for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands; and for other purposes.

Federal Lands: Lands owned by the United States, without references to how the lands were acquired or what Federal agency administers the land, including surface estate, mineral estate and coal estate, but excluding lands held by the United States in trust for Indians, Aleuts or Eskimos.

Floodplain: The lowland and relatively flat area adjoining inland waters including, at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Fluvial: A comprehensive term describing river processes.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods that are available to grazing/browsing animals.

Forest Service: The agency of the United States Department of Agriculture responsible for managing National Forests and Grasslands under the Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act of 1960.

Fossil: The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms that have been preserved by natural processes in the earth's crust exclusive of organisms that have been buried since the beginning of historical time.

Fracture: A crack, joint, fault, or other break in rocks.

Fugitive Dust - Dust particles suspended randomly in the air from road travel, excavation, and other similar types of operations.

Game Species: Any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been prescribed and that are normally harvested by hunters, trappers, and fishermen under State or Federal laws, codes, and regulations.

Graben: An elongate, relatively depressed crustal unit or block that is bounded by faults on its long sides.

Gradient: The slope (rise/run) of a surface or stream profile.

Habitat Type: An aggregation of all land areas potentially capable of producing similar plant communities at climax.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Human Environment: The factors that include, but are not limited to, biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

Impact (See Effects): The effect, influence, alteration, or imprint caused by an action.

Indirect Effects: Secondary effects that occur in locations other than the initial action or significantly later in time.

Intermittent stream. Flows are generally sustained for 6 months or more during the year, and are dry or have very diminished flow seasonally. During a portion of the year, flows are influenced by direct interaction with the water table.

Invertebrate: An animal lacking a spinal column.

Irretrievable: Use or consumption of a resource that is neither renewable nor recoverable for use by future generations.

Irreversible: A primary or secondary impact that limits the future options for a resource.

Key Observation Point: Critical viewpoints that are usually along commonly traveled routes or at other likely observation points.

Landslide: A perceptible downhill sliding or falling of a mass of soil and rock lubricated by moisture or snow.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals acquired only by lease and generally include oil, gas, coal, oil shale, sodium, potassium, phosphate, native asphalt, solid and semi-solid bitumen, and deposits of sulfur.

Lease: A Federal lease, issued under the coal leasing provisions of the mineral leasing laws, which grants the exclusive right to explore for and extract coal. In provisions of this group that also refer to Federal leases for minerals other than coal, the term Federal coal lease may apply.

License to Mine: A license issued under the provisions of 43 CFR Part 3440 to mine coal for domestic use.

Licensee: The holder of an exploration license.

Long-Term: Describes impacts that would occur over a 20-year period or more.

May Affect - Likely to Adversely Affect: A "May Affect - Likely to Adversely Affect" determination is warranted when it is found a project or activity will have effects on a listed species or critical habitat, and those effects are likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat.

May Affect - Not Likely to Adversely Affect: A "May Affect - Not Likely to Adversely Affect" determination is warranted when it is found a project or activity will have effects on a listed species or critical habitat, but those effects are not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat.

Mitigation: Includes:

- (a) Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
- (b) Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree of magnitude of the action and its implementation.
- (c) Rectifying the impact of repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
- (d) Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
- (e) Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Multiple-Use: Management of the surface and subsurface resources so that they are jointly used in the manner that will best meet the present and future needs of the public without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land or the quality of the environment.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: Public Law 91-190. Established environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

National Forest Management Act: A law passed in 1976 as amendments to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act that requires the preparation of Regional and Forest plans and the preparation of regulations to guide that development.

National Forest System: All National Forest System lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States; all National Forest System lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means the National Grasslands and land use projects administered under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act (7 U.S.C. 1010 et seq.); and other lands, waters, or interests therein which are administered by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service or are designated for administration through the U.S.D.A. Forest Service as a part of the system (16 U.S.C. 1609).

National Historic Preservation Act: An act passed in 1966 to establish a program for the preservation of Historic Properties throughout the Nation.

National Register of Historic Places: A listing of architectural, historical, archaeological, and cultural sites of local, state, or national significance established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

No Action Alternative: No action or activity would take place. Another definition is where

ongoing programs described within the existing Land Management Plan continue. No decision would be made and no leases would be offered.

No Effect: A "No Effect" determination is warranted when a project or activity will not have any effect on a listed species or its critical habitat.

Non-attainment Area: for any regulated air pollutant, an area for (1) which is shown by monitored data or is calculated by air quality modeling or any other method determined by the administrator to be reliable, to exceed any national standard of ambient air quality for the regulated air pollutant; (2) which is designated as a non-attainment area by the governor; and (3) which is promulgated as a non-attainment area by the administrator.

Noxious Weeds: Rapidly spreading plants that cause a variety of major ecological impacts to both agriculture and wild lands.

Off-Road Vehicle: Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland or other natural terrain. It includes, but is not limited to, four-wheel drive or low-pressure-tire vehicles, motorcycles and related two-wheel vehicles, amphibious machines, ground-effect, air-cushion, or ATVs.

Overstory: The portion of a plant community consisting of the taller plants on the site; the forest or woodland canopy.

Paleontology: The branch of geology concerned with the study of the fossil remains of animal and plant life of past geological periods.

Particulates: Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.

Perennial Stream. Flows approximately 90-100 percent of the time; has a significant base flow component derived from groundwater sources.

Prehistoric Site: Archaeologic sites associated with American Indians and usually occurring before contact with Europeans.

Prevention of Significant Deterioration: A classification established to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in National Wilderness Preservation System areas in existence prior to August 1977 and other areas of National significance while ensuring economic growth can occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources. Specific emission limitations and other measures, by class, are detailed in the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 1875, et seq.).

Prime Farmland: Land that is best suited to producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops. It has the soil quality, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high crop yields if acceptable farming methods are used. Prime farmland produces the highest yields with minimal inputs of energy and money, and farming it result in the least damage to the environment.

Proposed Endangered Species: A taxon which has already been formally proposed to be listed as endangered.

Range Allotment: A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under an allotment management plan. It is the basic land unit used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System lands administered by the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

Rare Species: A plant or wildlife species, or subspecies, that is limited to a restricted geographic range or one that occurs sparsely over a wider area.

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario: The prediction of potentially future actions, occurring in within the cumulative assessment area, within a designated period of time.

Reclamation: Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced and in conformity with a predetermined land management plan.

Record of Decision: A document separate from, but associated with, an environmental impact statement that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the Proposed Action.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Land delineations that identify a variety of recreation experience opportunities in six classes along a continuum from primitive to urban. Each class is defined in terms of natural resource settings, activities and experience opportunities. The six classes are: Urban, Rural, Roadbed, Natural, Semiprimitive Motorized, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized, and Primitive.

Research Natural Area: An area in a natural condition which exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, soil, geologic, and aquatic features. The area is set aside to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes.

Residual Adverse Impacts: Those effects remaining after implementation of mitigation measures.

Restore: To bring back landscape to a former or original condition or appearance.

Revegetation: The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as seed bed preparation, reseeding, and mulching.

Riffle: A shallow section of stream with rapid current and a surface broken by gravel, rubble, or boulders.

Right-of-way: An accurately located strip of land with a defined width, point of beginning, and point of ending. It is the area within which the user has authority to conduct operations approved or granted by the landowner in an authorizing document, such as a permit, easement, lease, license, or Memorandum of Understanding.

Riparian: Riparian areas consist of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, those lands in a position to directly influence water quality and water resources, whether or not free water is available. This would include all lands in the active flood channel and lands immediately upslope of stream banks. These areas may be associated with lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, potholes, marshes,

streams, bogs,, wet meadows, and intermittent or permanent streams where free and unbound water is available.

Roadbed, Natural: A recreation opportunity classification term describing a land area that has been predominately a natural appearing environment with moderate evidence of sights and sounds of humans. Concentration of users is moderate to low. Roads of better than primitive class are usually with 0.5 mile. A broad range of motorized and nonmotorized activity opportunities are available. Management activities, including timber harvest, are present and harmonize with the natural environment.

Roadless: Refers to the absence of roads that have been constructed and maintained by mechanical means to ensure regular and continuous use.

Scenic Quality Classes: The designation (A, B, or C) assigned a scenic quality rating unit to indicate the visual importance or quality of a unit relative to other units within the same physiographic province.

Scoping Process: An early and open public participation process for determining particular issues to be addressed in an environmental document and for identifying the significant issues related to a Proposed Action.

Sensitive Species: Those plant or animal species that are susceptible or vulnerable to activity impacts or habitat alterations.

Significant: An effect that is analyzed in the context of the Proposed Action to determine the importance of the effect either beneficial or adverse. The degree of significance is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment and when the affects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

Subgrade Strength: The portion of the roadway below the base and surface and its ability to carry loads.

Surface Strength: The portion of the roadway that includes the pavement and base material and its ability to carry loads.

Terrestrial Wildlife: Animals who live in a land-based ecosystem, as opposed to water or air.

Threatened Species: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Total Dissolved Solids: Salt or an aggregate of carbonates, bicarbonates, chlorides, sulfates, phosphates, and nitrates of calcium, magnesium, manganese, sodium, potassium, and other cations that form salts that are dissolved or present in water.

Track-out: The particles, such as coal dust, left behind along the road as a truck travels through an area. These particles settle on the truck or are picked up on the tires during loading activities.

Vibration: The simple periodic to-and-fro motion of a body, etc.

Visual Quality Objectives: Based upon variety class, sensitivity level, and distance zone determinations. Each objective describes a different level of acceptable alteration based on aesthetic importance. The degree of alteration is based on contrast with the surrounding landscape.

Preservation: In general, human activities are not detectable to the visitor.

Retention: Human activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.

Partial Retention: Human activities may be evident, but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape, but must, at the same time, use naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in middleground or background.

Maximum Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Enhancement: A short-term management alternative that is completed with the express purpose of increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists.

Visual Resource: The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal of the unit.

Visual Resource Management System: The BLM system for evaluating and classifying visual resources. The system uses line, form, color, texture, scale, and space to categorize lands into one of four classes:

Class I: Preservation

Class II: Retention

Class III: Partial Retention

Class IV: Modification

Watershed: An entire area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.

Wilderness: An area designated by congressional action under the 1964 Wilderness Act. Wilderness is defined as undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation.

Wind Erodibility Group: Indicates a soil's susceptibility to wind erosion based upon its particle resistance as described by the percentage of dry soil aggregates larger than 0.033 inches. These values range from 1 to 8 with 1 being the most erodible.

Wetlands: Lands where saturation with water is the primary factor determining the nature of soil development and the kinds of animal and plant communities living under or on its surface.