

APPENDIX G

GLOSSARY

Active Prairie Dog Colony - A prairie dog colony that supports a prairie dog density that has not been noticeably reduced by poisoning, plague, or shooting and that is essentially at its carrying capacity.

Activity - A measure, course of action, or treatment that is undertaken to directly or indirectly produce, enhance, or maintain forest and rangeland outputs or achieve administrative or environmental quality objectives.

Adaptive Management - A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy.

Administrative Unit - All the National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, for which one forest supervisor is responsible.

Adverse Determination - Please refer to the definition as found in the Biological Assessment and Evaluation appendix.

Adverse Effect (Heritage Resources) - Any effect on a heritage resource that would be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Affected Environment - The biological and physical environment that will or may be changed by actions proposed and the relationship of people to that environment.

Air Pollution - Any substance or energy (heat, light, noise, etc.) that alters the state of the air from what would naturally occur.

Airshed - A geographical area, which, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, routinely shares the same air mass.

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. An alternative need not substitute for another in all respects.

American Indian - A member of any tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians recognized by the United States.

Animal Unit Month (AUM) - The amount of feed or forage required by an animal-unit for one month.

Annual Plant - A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in one year or less.

Archeological Resource - Any physical remains of past human life or activities.

Availability (Oil and Gas) - Availability of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, for oil and gas leasing. Availability refers to lands that have not been formally prohibited from oil and gas leasing activities.

Available Forage - That portion of the forage production that is accessible for use by a specified kind or class of grazing animal.

Available Lands (Oil and Gas) - Any lands subject to oil and gas leasing under the Minerals Leasing Act.

Biological Diversity - The full variety of life in an area, including the ecosystems, plant and animal communities, species and genes, and the processes through which individual organisms interact with one another and their environments. Emphasis is on the diversity of native or endemic species.

Boundary Management Zone - Designated area on national grasslands where one or more management tools are applied to help reduce unwanted prairie dog colonization of adjoining private or tribal agricultural lands. These areas extend into national grasslands specified distances from property boundaries.

Candidate Species – Species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposed rule to list the species for protection un the Endangered Species Act.

CFR - Code of Federal Regulations.

Community (Biological) - Any assembly of organisms living together.

Community (Social) - The people who reside in one locality and are subject to the same laws or who have common interests, etc.

Community Lifestyle - The ways in which residents conduct their everyday routines and how those routines are associated with the national forests or national grasslands.

Community Stability - The capacity of community to absorb and cope with change without major hardship to institutions or groups within the community.

Conservation - The aggregate of practices and customs to perpetuate sustained yield of renewable resources and prevent waste of nonrenewable resources.

Consultation – 1) An active, affirmative process that (a) identifies issues and seeks input from appropriate American Indian governments, community groups, and individuals and (b) considers their interests as a necessary and integral part of the BLM and Forest Service decision-making process. 2) The legal obligation requiring the federal government, through consultation, to consider the interests of American Indian tribes and account for those interests in the decision-making process. This legal obligation is based in laws and numerous Executive Orders and statutes. 3) A process that involves discussions between a federal agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7(a) (2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, regarding potential impacts on a species or critical habitat listed under Section 4 of the act.

Cool-Season Plant - A plant that generally makes the major portion of its growth during the late fall, winter, and early spring. Cool-season species generally exhibit the C3 photosynthetic pathway.

Cooperating Agency - Any federal agency other than the lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Cost - The negative or adverse effects or expenditures resulting from an action. Costs may be monetary, social, physical, or environmental in nature.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) - An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Critical Habitat (Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species) - Habitat of federally listed threatened or endangered species where those physical and biological features essential to conservation of the species are found and which may require special management considerations or protection. This habitat may currently be occupied or may be determined by the Secretary of the interior to be essential for areas outside the species' current range.

Cropland - Land primarily used for the production of cultivated crops.

Cultural Resources - See Heritage Resources.

Culture - That complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, customs, and any other capabilities and habitats peculiar to a society.

Cumulative Effect - The impact on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of the source (federal or nonfederal agencies, individuals). Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time.

Decision Document - Document that provide the criteria and information used in the formulation and evaluation of alternatives and the preferred alternative.

Direct Effect - Environmental effect caused by an action and that occur at the same time and place.

District Ranger - The official responsible for administering the National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, on a ranger district.

Disturbance - A discrete event, either natural or human induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

Diversity - Diversity refers to the distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by land and resource management plans. This term is derived from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). This term is not synonymous with biological diversity.

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) - The statement of environmental effects required for major federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act and released to the public and other agencies for comment and review.

Drought - Any year or sequence of years when annual precipitation amounts are less than 75% below average.

Effect - Physical, biological, social, and economic result (expected or experienced) resulting from achievement of outputs. Effects can be direct, indirect, and cumulative.

Effect (Heritage Resources) - Impact to the characteristics that qualify a heritage resource for the National Register of Historic Places. These can include alterations in location, setting, use design, materials, feeling, and association. Adverse effects include:

- Physical destruction or damage.
- Isolation from or alteration of setting.
- Introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements.
- Physical deterioration from neglect or from any action.
- Transfer, lease, or sale.

Eligible (Heritage Resources) - Indicates that a specific heritage resource qualifies for or is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Encroachment – 1) Alternative 2 definition: Encroachment occurs when a prairie dog colony on national grasslands expands to a point where unwanted colonization of adjoining land occurs and is unwanted by the landowner and/or manager (This definition is taken from the South Dakota Black-tailed Prairie Dog Conservation and Management Plan); 2) Alternative 3 definition: Encroachment is defined as a national grassland colony that extends across a private or tribal property boundary or would likely cross a property boundary within 1 to 2 years.

Endangered Species - Any species of animal or plant in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range and so designated by the Secretary of Interior in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 - An act to conserve ecosystems for endangered species and threatened species, to conserve the endangered species and threatened species themselves, and to take appropriate steps to achieve the purposes of the (relevant) treaties and conventions.

Environment - All the conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms.

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

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - A document prepared by a federal agency in which anticipated environmental effects of a planned course of action or development are evaluated. A federal statute (Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) requires that such statements be prepared. An EIS is prepared first in draft or review form and then in a final form and includes the following points:

- The environmental impact of the proposed action.
- Any adverse impacts that cannot be avoided by the action.
- The alternative courses of action.
- The relationship between local short-term use of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- A description of the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would occur if the action was accomplished.

Erosion - The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, gravity, or other geological activities.

Executive Order - An order or regulation issued by the President or some administrative authority under presidential direction.

Experimental Population Area – Area designated through a federal rule-making process for release of a federally-listed species under provisions of Section 10(j) of Endangered Species Act.

Extinction - Disappearance of a taxon of organisms from existence in all regions.

Extirpation - The elimination of a species from a particular area.

Forage - Vegetation used for food by wildlife and livestock, particularly ungulate wildlife and domestic livestock.

Forage Production - The weight of forage that is produced within a designated period of time on a given area. The weight may be expressed as green, air dry, or oven dry. The term may also be modified as to time of production such as annual, current year, or seasonal forage production.

Forb - Any herbaceous plant other than those in the grass, sedge, and rush families. For example, any non grass-like plant that has little or no woody material.

Forest Supervisor - Official responsible for administering any particular national forest. Forest supervisors report to regional foresters.

Fossil - The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms that have been preserved by natural processes in the Earth's crust. Minerals, such as oil and gas, coal, oil shale, bitumen, lignite, asphaltum and tar sands, phosphate, limestone, diatomaceous earth, uranium, and vanadium, while they may be of biologic origin, are not here considered fossils. Fossils of scientific value may occur within or in association with such minerals.

FSH - Forest Service Handbook

FSM - Forest Service Manual

Geographic Area - A piece of land where management is directed toward achieving a specified desired condition.

Geographic Information System (GIS) - A spatial type of information management system that provides for the entry, storage, manipulation, retrieval, and display of spatially oriented data.

Goal - A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. A goal is normally expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved (36 CFR 219.3). The Region 2 Desk Guide has this to say about goals: "Desired conditions and processes are measurable, have a timeless nature, and describe a resource condition or ecological process. In the first round of (land and resource management) planning, these statements were often termed 'goals.' They describe the conditions or processes we expect to achieve through resource management. Complete accomplishment of desired conditions is not mandatory during the current planning phase, but it is our ultimate intent."

Grassland - Any land on which the dominant plants are grasses or on which grasses originally dominated.

Grazing - The act of animals consuming plants on range or pasture.

Guideline - Advisable actions that should be followed to achieve grassland or forest goals and objectives. Deviations from guidelines must be analyzed during project-level analysis and be documented in a project decision document but do not require management plan amendments.

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

Habitat Suitability – A measure of current habitat quality relative to the local biological potential of an area to provide habitat for a species. Habitat suitability is usually expressed as low, moderate or high or is quantitatively presented as an index value scaled from 0 (unsuitable) to 1.0 (optimum habitat).

Herbage – total aboveground biomass of plants including shrubs regardless of grazing preference or availability.

Herbivore - An animal that subsists principally or entirely on plants or plant material.

Heritage Resources - The physical remains and conceptual content or context of an area. Physical remains may include artifacts, structures, landscape modifications, rock art, trails, or roads. Conceptual content/context includes the setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, such as a sacred area for American Indians.

Human Environment - Includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people within that environment.

Implementation - Those activities necessary to initiate the actions in the approved land and resource management plan.

Inactive Prairie Dog Colony - A prairie dog colony that no longer supports a prairie dog population due to poisoning or plague; however, the colony area still retains its intact burrow system.

Indirect Effect - Environmental effect caused by an action but resulting later in time or farther away in place, yet which are still reasonably foreseeable.

In-holding – 1) Land within boundaries of a national forest or national grassland that are owned by some other agency, organization, or individual; 2) private lands surrounded by federal lands.

Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) - A group of people with different specialized training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. Through interaction, participants bring different points of view and a broader range of expertise to bear on the problem.

Irretrievable Commitment - Applies to loss of production or use of renewable natural resources for a period of time. For example, road construction leads to an irretrievable loss of the productivity of the land under which the road is located. If the road is later obliterated, the land may eventually become productive again. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

Irreversible Commitment - Decision causing changes that cannot be reversed. For example, if an area is mined, that area cannot, at a later date, be allocated to some other resource activities, such as Wilderness. Once mined, the ability of that area to meet Wilderness criteria, for instance, has been irreversibly lost. Irreversible commitments often apply to some non-

renewable resource, such as minerals and heritage resources.

Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) - A document that guides natural resource management and establishes standards and guidelines for a national forest or national grassland. Required by the National Forest Management Act.

Land Exchange - The conveyance of nonfederal land or interests to the United States in exchange for National Forest System land, including national grasslands, or interests in such land.

Landowner - Person who has title to land recognized by the prevailing legal system.

Landscape - The landforms of a region in aggregate.

Lead Agency - The agency or agencies preparing or having taken the primary responsibility for preparing an environmental impact statement.

Lease (Oil and Gas) - A legal contract granting the right to explore for, develop, and produce oil and gas resources for a specific period of time under certain agreed-upon terms and conditions.

Lease Stipulations (Oil and Gas) - Additional specific terms and conditions that modify the lease rights or change the manner in which an operation may be conducted.

Listed Species - Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant officially designated as endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce.

Livestock - Domestic animals.

Major Federal Action - Includes actions with effects that may be major and which are potentially subject to federal control and responsibility.

Management - The organization of actions designed to reach a given set of objectives.

Management Area – Area of the grassland that are managed for a particular emphasis. These areas have common management direction and may be non contiguous on the national forest or national grassland.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) – A plant or animal species selected because their status is believed to (1) be indicative of the status of a larger functional group of species, (2) be reflective of the status of a key habitat type, or (3) act as an early warning of an anticipated stressor to ecological integrity. The key characteristic of a MIS species is that its status and trend provide insights to the integrity of the larger ecological system to which it belongs.

Midgrass - Grasses which normally grow 18 - 36 inches tall, as in western wheatgrass.

Mitigation - Includes avoiding an impact by not taking certain actions; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

Mitigation (Heritage Resources) - Actions taken to reduce or eliminate adverse effects caused to heritage resources. Avoidance is not considered a mitigation measure.

Mixed Grass Prairie - Grassland type west of the tallgrass prairie in North America, consisting of a mixture of tall-, short-, and midgrasses and other herbaceous plants, also called mixed

prairie.

Model – A mathematical and computer-based simulation used as a tool to enhance understanding of complex systems.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) - An act declaring a national policy to encourage productive harmony between people and their environment, to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of people and to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA) - A 1976 law that amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and requires the preparation of Land and Resource Management Plans.

National Forest System (NFS) Lands - Federal lands designated by Executive Order or statute as national forests, national grasslands, or purchase units, or other lands under the administration of the U.S. Forest Service.

National Grasslands - Lands designated national grasslands by the Secretary of Agriculture and permanently held by the Department of Agriculture under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) - A list of heritage resources that have local, state, or national significance maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

Native - A plant or animal indigenous to a particular locality.

Natural - Occurring in conformity with the ordinary course of nature. An area having undergone no, or at least minimal, disturbance by anthropogenic forces.

No Adverse Effect (Heritage Resources) - Any effect on a heritage resource that would not be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

No Effect (Heritage Resources) - No effect to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

No Action Alternative - An alternative that maintains established trends or management direction.

Non-essential Experimental Population – Population of a federally listed species released under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act and whose loss would not be likely to appreciably reduce the likelihood of the survival of the species in the wild. Section 10(j) of ESA authorizes listed species to be released as experimental populations outside their currently occupied range, but within probable historic habitat, to further species conservation.

Notice of Availability – Notice that an environmental impact statement has been prepared and is available for review.

Notice of Intent - Notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice briefly describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, the agency's scoping process, and the address and name of the agency to contact regarding questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.

Objective - A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and resources to be used in achieving identified goals.

Paleontological Area - A unit of land that contains fossils of plants and animals, shellfish, early vertebrates, coal swamp forests, early reptiles, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric plants and animals.

Paleontological Resource - Fossil resources, including both body and trace fossils, of all groups of organisms (vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, pollen, and spores, etc.)

Paleontology - The study of life in past geologic times.

Perennial Plant - A plant that lives for two or more years.

Permitted Grazing - Use of a National Forest System range allotment under the terms of a grazing permit.

Permittee (Grazing) - One who holds a permit to graze livestock on state, federal, or certain privately owned lands.

Planning Period - A time interval for which inputs and outputs are identified in a planning process. The planning period for Land and Resource Management Plans are ten years.

Planning Unit - Each individual national grassland and forest in the planning area.

Plant Association - A grouping of plants that have reached dynamic equilibrium with the local environmental conditions; equivalent to climax. On site, there is no evidence of replacement by other dominant plant species, and there is no evidence of serious disturbances.

Plant Community - An assemblage of plant species living in an area. A plant community is an organized unit to the extent that it has characteristics in addition to the individuals and populations and functions as a unit.

Prairie Dog Colony - Prairie dog population consisting of one or more family units (coterries) that occupy a local area and physically and socially interact with one another on a daily basis. The outermost burrow openings along the perimeter of a colony are typically used to define its extent.

Prairie Dog Colony Complex - A group of at least 10 prairie dog colonies with nearest-neighbor inter-colony distances not exceeding 6 miles and with a total colony complex acreage of at least 1,000 acres.

Productivity - The total quantity of organic material produced within a given period by organisms or the energy that this represents, such as gram-calories per square centimeter per year. The innate capacity of an environment to produce plant and animal life. The capacity of a soil to produce a certain kind of crop under a defined set of management conditions.

Proposed Action - In terms of the National Environmental Policy Act, the project, activity, or action that a federal agency intends to implement or undertake and which is the subject of an environmental analysis.

Proposed Critical Habitat - Habitat proposed for designation to benefit any listed or proposed species. Notice of proposed critical habitat appears in the Federal Register.

Proposed Species - Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is proposed by the Fish and

Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service for listing as threatened or endangered.

Public - The people of an area, state, or nation that can be grouped together by a commonality of interests, values, beliefs, or life-style.

Public Involvement - A Forest Service process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency decisions are made. It includes the following steps:

- Informing the public of Forest Service activities, plans, and decisions.
- Encouraging public understanding about the participation in the planning processes that lead to final decision-making.

Public Issue - A subject or question of widespread public interest identified through public participation relating to management of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

Rangeland - Lands on which the native vegetation is predominately grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing usage. Includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation.

Rangeland Health - The degree to which the integrity of the soil, the vegetation, the water, and air as well as the ecological processes of the rangeland ecosystem is balanced and sustained. Integrity is defined as: Maintenance of the structure and functional attributes characteristic of a particular locale, including normal variability.

Ranger District - Administrative subdivision of the national forest or national grassland supervised by a district ranger who reports to a forest supervisor.

Record of Decision (ROD) - 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.

Recovery Plan - Identifies, justifies, and schedules the research and management action necessary to reverse the decline of a species and ensure its long-term survival.

Region - An administrative unit within the National Forest System lands, which includes national grasslands. The United States is divided into nine geographic regions. Each region has a headquarter office and is supervised by a regional forester. Each region contains national forests and sometimes national grasslands or other lands administered by the Forest Service.

Regional Forester - The official responsible for administering a single region.

Responsible Official - The Forest Service employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

Rocky Mountain Region - The Forest Service organizational units consisting of Colorado, Wyoming, part of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Also known as Region 2.

Rodenticide - A pesticide formulated to kill rodents.

Scoping Process - An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Identifying the significant environmental issues deserving of study and de-emphasizing insignificant issues, narrows the scope of the environmental impact statement accordingly.

Sensitive Species - Those plant and animal species identified by Regional Foresters for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by the following:

- Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.
- Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Shortgrass - Grasses which normally are only a few inches tall, including blue and hairy grama and buffalograss

Shortgrass Prairie - Native grasslands which are dominated by shortgrasses.

Significant Archeological Sites - Sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the Forest Service in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Social Analysis - An analysis of the social (as distinct from the economic and environmental) effects of a given plan or proposal for action. Social analysis includes identification and evaluation of all pertinent desirable and undesirable consequences to all segments of society.

Soil Erosion - The detachment and movement of soil from the land surface by water or wind. Soil erosion and sediment are not the same.

Species - A group of potentially interbreeding populations that is reproductively isolated from other such groups.

Species at Risk – Federally listed endangered, threatened, candidate, and proposed species and other species for which loss of viability, including reduction in distribution or abundance, is a concern within the planning area. Other species at risk include sensitive species and state listed species.

Standard - Actions that must be followed or are required limits to activities in order to achieve grassland or forest goals and objectives. Site-specific deviations from standards must be analyzed and documented in management plan amendments.

Stipulation (Oil and Gas) - A provision that modifies standard lease rights attached to and made a part of the lease.

Threatened Species - Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range and that has been designated in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior as such.

Topography - The configuration of a land surface including its relief, elevation, and the position of its natural and human-made features.

Vegetation Management - Any activities undertaken to modify the existing condition of vegetation.

Vegetation Structure – The vertical characteristics or profile of vegetation.

Vertebrate Fossil - The fossilized remains of animals that had a bony skeleton or backbone.

Viable Population - A group of individuals of a particular species that produces enough offspring for long-term persistence and adaptation of the species or population in a given place. For planning purposes, 36 CFR 219.19 defines a viable population as one that has the estimated

numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure that a continued viable population is well-distributed in the planning area. A planning area is further defined by 36 CFR 219.3 as the "area of the National Forest System covered by a regional guide or forest plan." Direction estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure the continued existence of the species throughout its existing range (or range required to meet recovery for listed species) within the planning area.

Warm-Season Plant - A plant that makes most or all its growth during the spring, summer, or fall and is usually dormant in winter. A plant that usually exhibits the C4 photosynthetic pathway.

Watershed - The area of land bounded by a divide, that drains water, sediment, and dissolved materials to a common outlet at some point along a stream channel (Dunne and Leopold, 1978), or to a lake, reservoir, or other body of water. Also called drainage basin or catchment.