

## Chapter 5

### Glossary

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**100-year floodplain**

An area whose flood level has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. See also *floodplain*.

**acre-foot**

A unit of volume commonly used to measure stored or used water. An acre-foot is equivalent to the quantity of water needed to cover 1 acre of land to a depth of 1 foot (1 acre-foot is equivalent to 325,851 gallons, 43,560 cubic feet, or 1, 233 cubic meters).

**adit**

An entrance to an underground mine which is horizontal or nearly horizontal, by which the mine can be entered, drained of water, and ventilated.

**ampere**

A unit of electric current that measures the rate at which electrons flow in a wire (1 ampere is 6.023 x 10<sup>23</sup> electrons per second). An ampere is equivalent to the steady current produced by 1 volt applied across a resistance of 1 ohm.

**anadromous**

Refers to fish species that hatch in fresh water, migrate to salt water where they grow and spend their adult life, and return to fresh water to spawn and die.

**annualized job**

A method for estimating direct full-time employment. An employment estimate adjusted to a full year, even though the job may consist of more than one worker employed for shorter time periods.

**area of critical environmental concern (ACEC)**

A public land area designated for special management in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important cultural, historic, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes or in order to protect human life and safety from natural hazards.

**attainment area**

An area whose air quality meets or exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined by the Clean Air Act, for one or more criteria pollutants. Attainment status is assessed separately for each criteria pollutant—that is, an area can be in attainment for one pollutant but not in attainment for another pollutant.

**1 avoidance mitigation**

2 Avoidance of an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action (may also include,  
3 for example, avoidance by moving the proposed action to a different time or location) (40 CFR  
4 1508.20).

**5 A-weighted decibel**

6 A measurement of sound pressure level (decibels) weighted or adjusted to reflect the sensitivity of the  
7 human ear across the frequency spectrum. The A-weighted decibel scale is the standard weighting  
8 system that accounts for human hearing response to each sound frequency.

**9 bay**

10 A closed or open cubicle or area where electrical equipment is placed.

**11 bedrock**

12 Solid rock lying below any unconsolidated surface cover such as soil and loose sediments.

**13 board foot**

14 A unit of quantity commonly used to measure lumber. A board foot is equal to the volume of a board  
15 measuring 12 inches by 12 inches by 1 inch.

**16 Bus (or busbar)**

17 An electrical conductor, maintained at a specific voltage and capable of carrying a high current, that is  
18 used to connect several circuits in an electrical power distribution system.

**19 bus-support insulator**

20 Porcelain or fiberglass insulator that serves to isolate busbar switches and other support structures and  
21 to prevent leakage current from flowing through structures or to the ground. This insulator type is  
22 functionally similar to other insulator types used in substations and transmission poles and towers.

**23 candidate species**

24 Plant or animal species considered for possible addition to the threatened and endangered species list.  
25 These are species for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on  
26 biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a  
27 proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions (61 FR 7596–7613, February 28,  
28 1996).

**29 capacity**

30 Amount of power a transmission line can reliably deliver from its sending end to its receiving end.  
31 Capacity is measured in megawatts and is limited by the current (in amperes) that the wire can carry  
32 and the voltage level of the transmission line.

**33 carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e)**

34 A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their  
35 global warming potential.

**1 carbon sequestration**

2 Terrestrial, or biologic, carbon sequestration is the process by which trees and plants absorb carbon  
3 dioxide, release the oxygen, and store the carbon. Geologic sequestration is one step in the process of  
4 carbon capture and sequestration, and involves injecting carbon dioxide deep underground where it  
5 stays permanently.

**6 census block**

7 The smallest subdivision of a census tract that typically contains between 600 and 3,000 people.

**8 census block group**

9 A geographic subdivision of a census tract that comprises a compact and contiguous cluster of census  
10 blocks.

**11 census tract**

12 A relatively permanent geographic subdivision of a county smaller than a census county division that is  
13 used for recording population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. Tracts do not  
14 cross county boundaries.

**15 center-pivot irrigation**

16 An irrigation method used to water circular agricultural fields. This method relies on an automated  
17 sprinkler system consisting of a long segmented pipe mounted on a tower that rotates around a central  
18 point. Sprinkler arms typically range from 200 to over 2,000 feet long.

**19 check dam**

20 A small low dam temporarily or permanently constructed in a waterway or drainage ditch to decrease  
21 the speed of flowing water, to minimize channel erosion, to allow sediments to settle, and to divert  
22 water from a channel.

**23 colluvium**

24 Accumulation of sand and rock debris at the foot of cliffs or steep slopes.

**25 community of shared interest**

26 Geographically dispersed individuals who could experience common conditions related to an  
27 environmental effect.

**28 compensatory mitigation**

29 Compensation for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR  
30 1508.20). Actions taken to offset an unavoidable adverse impact on wetlands, streams, and other  
31 aquatic resources authorized by Clean Water Act Section 404 permits and other U.S. Army Corps of  
32 Engineers permits in order to help meet the national goal of “no net loss” of wetland acreage and  
33 function. Compensatory mitigation takes one of three forms: (1) permittee-responsible mitigation, (2)  
34 mitigation bank, or (3) in-lieu-fee mitigation (see those respective terms for their full definitions).  
35 Implementing and monitoring compensatory mitigation also involve the following key concepts:

**ecological durability**

Benefits from compensatory mitigation projects on compensatory mitigation sites persisting and influencing the landscape for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect Greater Sage-Grouse.

**protective durability**

Protection of compensatory mitigation sites from future and conflicting land uses or disturbances for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect Greater Sage-Grouse.

**projects**

Specific, on-the-ground actions (mitigation measures) to improve habitats (e.g., chemical vegetation treatments).

**sites**

The durable areas where compensatory mitigation projects will occur.

**reversals**

Damage to functioning compensatory mitigation sites that may be caused by natural disturbances (unintentional reversal, such as wildfire) or anthropogenic disturbances (intentional reversal, such as development) which shorten the intended duration of compensatory mitigation.

**cooperating agency**

A federal, state, or local government agency that has accepted an invitation to participate in the NEPA process by the lead federal agency. The invitation is generally formal and accompanied by the signing of a memorandum of understanding. Typically, a cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental issue which will be addressed by the NEPA analysis EISs (40 CFR 1508).

**corona**

An electrical discharge (breakdown) produced by the concentration of electrical fields near the surface of various components (conductors, insulators, hardware, and so forth) of an energized high-voltage transmission line. This breakdown releases ions (charged particles) into the air, which can produce such effects as an audible buzzing sound, visible light, gaseous emissions, and radio/television interference.

**Cowardin classification**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's comprehensive classification system of wetlands and deepwater habitats, which was developed by Lewis Cowardin, Virginia Carter, Francis Golet, and Edward LaRoe and published in 1979 as *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*. Under this system, wetlands are of two basic types: coastal (also known as tidal or estuarine wetlands) and inland (also known as nontidal, freshwater, or palustrine wetlands).

**1 criteria pollutant**

2 One of the six common air pollutants (particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead,  
3 sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides) designated in the Clean Air Act that are regulated by national  
4 standard permissible levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. “Criteria” refers to the human-  
5 health-based and environmental-science-based guidelines that the EPA uses to determine permissible  
6 levels. Levels based on human-health guidelines are called “primary standards.” Levels based on  
7 environmental-science guidelines are called “secondary standards.”

**8 culvert**

9 A natural or artificial conduit under a road, trail, or other feature that diverts stream water or  
10 precipitation runoff to prevent erosion or flooding or that is used as an underground or aboveground  
11 passageway for wildlife. Artificial culverts are typically constructed of corrugated metal pipes or  
12 concrete boxes. The overhead surface of culverts is often stabilized for use as a waterbody crossing for  
13 vehicles.

**14 cultural resource**

15 A resource associated with the human cultural environment; examples include artifacts and historic  
16 objects, archaeological sites, historic sites, historic properties, and traditional cultural properties.

**17 cumulative effect or impact**

18 The effect on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to  
19 other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or  
20 nonfederal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor,  
21 but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 Code of Federal Regulations  
22 1508.7).

**23 day–night sound level ( $L_{dn}$ )**

24 The average sound level over a 24-hour period calculated from hourly equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq}$ )  
25 values measured at a given location, with the nighttime  $L_{eq}$  values (10:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m.) increased by  
26 10 decibels to reflect increased sensitivity to nighttime sound.

**27 dead-end structure**

28 Self-supporting structure/tower used in the construction of overhead transmission lines as line end  
29 points or to anchor line spans and turns.

**30 decibel**

31 A unit of sound level used to measure the intensity (pressure) of a sound wave.

**32 direct effect**

33 Effects that are caused by the action (for example, construction) and that occur at the same time and  
34 place.

**35 direct labor income**

36 Employment compensation for work directly performed to produce specific goods or services.

**1 dispersed recreation**

2 A recreational activity that occurs on public lands but that is not located at developed sites or locations.  
3 Examples include off-highway-vehicle use, camping, hunting, fishing, touring historic trails, sightseeing,  
4 pleasure driving, rock hounding, photography, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling,  
5 rafting, power boating, and general water play.

**6 drainage basin**

7 A portion of land that contains a system of streams, rivers, lakes, or reservoirs and that contributes  
8 water to this system through surface water runoff. Also referred to as a “watershed.”

**9 dryland farming**

10 A nonirrigated method of crop management and production, especially adapted for farming in arid  
11 regions.

**12 electromagnetic fields (EMF)**

13 The movement of electric and magnetic waves, also known as radiant energy, generated within an  
14 invisible area surrounding an active electrical device, wire, or power line. The voltage (pressure) that  
15 moves electric charges through the device, wire, or power line creates the electric field, while the  
16 current (flow) of those electric charges produces the magnetic field.

**17 encroachment permit**

18 Written permission obtained from a private landowner that allows the permit holder to access the  
19 landowner’s property for temporary activities, such as surveying.

**20 endangered species**

21 A plant or animal species that is listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as being endangered  
22 with extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range. This designation provides individuals and  
23 their habitats with the highest legal status for protection.

**24 environmental justice**

25 A practice to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental  
26 effects of a federal agency’s programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations  
27 and to ensure that such programs, policies, and activities do not exclude participation or subject people  
28 to discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

**29 environmental protection measure**

30 Actions or measures developed to maintain environmental quality and meet requirements of various  
31 land owners and land management plans.

**32 ephemeral stream**

33 Stream that only flows in direct response to precipitation.

**1 equivalent sound level (Leq)**

2 The steady, continuous sound level measured over a specified time that has the same acoustic energy  
3 as the varying sound levels over that same time.

**4 exclusive farm use**

5 Oregon law establishes the following statewide policy for use of agricultural land (ORS 215.243):

- 6 • Open land used for agriculture is a vital natural and economic asset for all the people of the  
7 state,
- 8 • Preservation of a maximum amount of agricultural land, in large blocks, is necessary to maintain  
9 the agricultural economy of the state and for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious  
10 food,
- 11 • Expansion of urban development in rural areas is a public concern because of the conflicts  
12 between farm and urban activities, and
- 13 • Incentives and privileges are justified to owners of land in exclusive farm use zones because  
14 such zoning substantially limits alternatives to the use of rural lands.

**15 extensive recreation management area (ERMA)**

16 A Bureau of Land Management administrative unit whose recreation opportunities or setting  
17 characteristics have little unique, important, or distinct value and that therefore require only limited  
18 management actions, not intensive management actions, to meet recreation objectives regarding use,  
19 demand, access, signage, etc.

**20 first foods**

21 Plant and animal resources gathered or cultivated by American Indians for subsistence, economic,  
22 medicinal, and ceremonial purposes that have important tribal historical, cultural, and religious value.

**23 fly yard**

24 A staging area for project materials used specifically to support helicopter use.

**25 floodplain**

26 A relatively flat, normally dry strip of sediment-built land bordering a stream channel or waterbody that  
27 becomes inundated during flood events when water overflows the banks of the stream or waterbody.

**28 fossil**

29 Remain, imprint, or trace of a plant or animal organism from a past geologic time period that has  
30 become embedded and preserved in the rock record.

**31 fugitive-dust emission**

32 The release of a visible air contaminant from any point or source other than a stack, vent, duct, or other  
33 similar opening. Examples include dust from roads; from construction, operation, or demolition  
34 activities, and from material stockpiles.

**1 gauss**

2 A unit of magnetic flux intensity used to measure the strength of the magnetic field per unit area.

**3 general wildlife**

4 Wildlife species not listed as having special status with any federal or state wildlife agencies.

**5 geographic information system (GIS)**

6 A computer-based database management system used to store, retrieve, manipulate, analyze, and  
7 display three-dimensional geographically referenced information. Each dataset within the system is  
8 referred to as a “layer.” GIS layers can be superimposed to display spatial relationships between  
9 datasets.

**10 Global Positioning System (GPS)**

11 A navigational system based on satellite signals transmitted to receivers to determine the precise  
12 location coordinates of an object anywhere on the earth’s surface.

**13 greenhouse-gas emission**

14 A gas such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide released into the atmosphere from fuel-  
15 combustion sources that absorbs solar heat radiated back from the earth’s surface and traps it in the  
16 atmosphere, creating a warming effect.

**17 groundwater**

18 Any water that exists below the earth’s surface; specifically, water stored in fully saturated soils and  
19 geologic formations that supplies springs, wells, and groundwater runoff.

**20 habitat fragmentation**

21 Landscape-level process that alters the continuity of a species’ preferred environment (habitat) by  
22 dividing it into smaller, disconnected patches of habitat, which, in turn, threatens the survival of that  
23 species’ population.

**24 hardened ford**

25 A shallow area of a stream bank and channel that is excavated and replaced with compacted rock and  
26 gravel and used as a waterbody crossing for vehicles, people, and animals.

**27 heliport**

28 A place for helicopters to land and take off.

**29 hertz**

30 The unit of sound frequency used to measure the cycles per second of sound pressure waves.

**31 impact analysis for planning (IMPLAN) model**

32 A model used to analyze the total economic activity of a given area by tracking the linkages and flow of  
33 spending and employment between various economic sectors.



**1 index fossil**

2 Significant vertebrate or invertebrate fossil of widespread distribution that provides age-dating  
3 information or that is representative of specific geological formations.

**4 indirect effect**

5 Effects that are caused by the action and that occur later in time but are still reasonably foreseeable.  
6 Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other related to induced and other natural  
7 systems, including ecosystems.

**8 indirect labor income**

9 Employment compensation for work that supports the overall production of specific goods or services  
10 but that is not directly involved in such production.

**11 individual permit**

12 Permits required for projects that affect more than 0.50 acre of waters of the United States or that  
13 cause impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. An individual permit requires mitigation to minimize or offset  
14 the impacts to Waters of the United States with no net loss of functions and values of the water  
15 resource.

**16 injection well**

17 A vertical shaft or hole that is bored, drilled, driven, or dug into the ground surface to create a  
18 subsurface distribution system for water or other fluids.

**19 in-kind mitigation**

20 Compensation that consists of replacing or substituting resources that are the same type and kind as  
21 those being impacted.

**22 in-lieu-fee mitigation**

23 Payment of funds to the Bureau of Land Management or a natural resource management agency,  
24 foundation, or other appropriate organization for mitigation projects or activities that address project  
25 impacts.

**26 intermittent stream**

27 Stream that only flows part of the year (seasonally) when it receives water from springs or rainfall runoff  
28 or surface water from snowmelt runoff from mountainous areas.

**29 IUCN category**

30 International Union for Conservation of Nature's protected area categories for the management of  
31 protected areas.

**32 jurisdictional determination**

33 The process for determining which wetlands are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or  
34 Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

1 **jurisdictional wetlands**

2 Wetlands regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 and must exhibit all three  
3 characteristics: hydrology, hydrophytes, and hydric soils (1987).

4 **karst**

5 A region consisting of features that are characterized by subsurface chemical weathering or erosion.  
6 Such features include sinkholes, caves, and subsurface drainage.

7 **key observation point**

8 A viewing location on a travel route, or at a use area or a potential use area, that is representative of a  
9 visually sensitive area where potential changes in the landscape setting (line, form, color, or texture)  
10 would be most visible.

11 **K factor**

12 Measurement of a soil's erosion potential and rate of runoff.

13 **kilovolt (kV)**

14 1,000 volts.

15 **labor income**

16 The sum of employee compensation (employee wages, salaries, and benefits and employer-paid  
17 payroll taxes) and proprietor income (self-employment earnings). Labor income can be further  
18 categorized as direct, indirect, and induced. See also *direct labor income*, *indirect labor income*,  
19 *induced labor income*.

20 **lattice tower**

21 A freestanding steel framework tower used to support 100-kV and higher electric transmission lines.

22 **laydown yard**

23 See *staging area*.

24 **lead agency**

25 The agency or agencies preparing, or having taken primary responsibility for preparing, an  
26 environmental document as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

27 **lek**

28 A competitive strutting and mating gathering area for male sage-grouse.

29 **maintenance area**

30 Geographic areas that have a history of nonattainment but that are now consistently meeting the  
31 National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Maintenance areas have been redesignated by the U.S.  
32 Environmental Protection Agency from "nonattainment" to "attainment with a maintenance plan."

1 **megawatt (MW)**

2 1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts.

3 **migratory bird**

4 Bird species that undertake regular seasonal journeys between ranges for breeding.

5 **minimization mitigation**

6 Minimization of an impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation (40  
7 CFR 1508.20).

8 **mitigation**

9 See *avoidance mitigation*, *compensatory mitigation*, *minimization mitigation*, *rectification mitigation*, and  
10 *reduction or elimination mitigation*.

11 **mitigation bank**

12 A type of compensatory mitigation for offsetting authorized unavoidable impacts on aquatic resources  
13 that is regulated through a permitting process and involves the establishment of wetland and aquatic  
14 habitat by a bank sponsor before development actions occur; developers can then purchase “credits”  
15 from the bank sponsor to provide compensatory mitigation at a proposed project site.

16 **memorandum of understanding**

17 A formal document detailing a signed agreement between two or more parties.

18 **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

19 National standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as stipulated by the Clean Air Act  
20 (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 50), to regulate pollutants considered harmful to public health  
21 and the environment. The Clean Air Act established two types of national standards. *Primary standards*  
22 set limits to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as asthmatics,  
23 children, and the elderly. *Secondary standards* set limits to protect public welfare, including protection  
24 against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. EPA has set National  
25 Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants (see also *criteria pollutants*).

26 **native loads**

27 Retail customers.

28 **national historic trail**

29 A designation for an extended historic, scenic, or recreational trail that closely follows an original trail or  
30 travel route of national historic significance. They are part of the National Trails System.

31 **noise-sensitive property**

32 receptor

**1 nonattainment area**

2 An area whose air quality does not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined in the  
3 Clean Air Act, for one or more criteria pollutants. Attainment status is assessed separately for each  
4 criteria pollutant—that is, an area can be not in attainment for one pollutant but in attainment for  
5 another pollutant.

**6 “no net loss” policy**

7 The policy to replace each newly impact wetland with a replacement wetland of the same size and with  
8 similar wetland functions and values.

**9 nonpoint source**

10 A source for water-transported substances that originates from a broad area rather than specific  
11 locations.

**12 nonspecular conductor**

13 A conductor that has been either mechanically or chemically treated to produce reduced reflectivity.  
14 The treated surface will have a smooth matte gray finish that blends naturally and unobtrusively with  
15 the environment.

**16 Notice of Intent**

17 A public notification, published in the *Federal Register*, indicating that an environmental impact  
18 statement will be prepared and considered in the decision making for a proposed action. The Notice of  
19 Intent provides project background information and marks the initiation of the public NEPA scoping  
20 process.

**21 Notice to Proceed**

22 A notification sent to a project contractor indicating that project work, subject to the conditions of the  
23 contract, can officially begin. The Notice to Proceed date typically serves as the project start date.

**24 noxious weed**

25 A legal term defined by states, counties, and the federal government. It is the basis for developing the  
26 noxious weed lists which are part of this document.

**27 ohm**

28 Physical unit used to measure electrical resistance. An ohm is equal to the resistance of a circuit in  
29 which a potential difference of 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere

**30 out-of-kind mitigation**

31 Compensation consisting of replacing or substituting resources that, while related, are of equal or  
32 greater overall value to public lands than the resources being impacted.

**33 off-highway vehicle (OHV)**

34 A motorized vehicle that can be operated on unpaved roads or trails or in remote areas, especially for  
35 recreational purposes. These vehicles are not typically legal to use on paved public highways, streets,

1 or roads. Examples include all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel-drive vehicles, dirt bikes, dune buggies, and  
2 snowmobiles.

3 **particulate matter**

4 Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air that may be composed of acids, organic chemicals, metals,  
5 or soil and dust particles. Particulate matter is further defined by particle size. Particles with diameters  
6 less than 2.5 microns are denoted as PM<sub>2.5</sub>; sources of these particles are fuel combustion, power  
7 plants, and diesel vehicles. Particles with diameters of 2.5 to 10 microns are denoted as PM<sub>10</sub>; sources  
8 include fugitive dust from unstable or disturbed dirt surfaces, vehicle travel on unpaved roads, crushing  
9 and grinding operations, and open burning.

10 **paulstrine**

11 National Wetland Inventory classification system that includes wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs,  
12 and persistent emergent plants associated with waterbodies that cover less than 20 acres or with water  
13 less than 6.6 feet deep.

14 **palustrine emergent**

15 A wetland type that lacks significant shrub or tree cover, occurs in a variety of locales, and has variable  
16 vegetation adapted to prolonged wet conditions (grasses, sedges, rushes, and other forbs).

17 **palustrine scrub-shrub**

18 A wetland type that occurs across a wide elevation range, is dominated by woody vegetation (shrubs  
19 and sapling trees) less than 20 feet tall, and has at least 30 percent cover of shrubs as the tallest  
20 vegetation layer.

21 **palustrine forested**

22 A wetland type dominated by woody vegetation that is more than 20 feet tall and has greater than 30  
23 percent canopy cover.

24 **percentile (statistical) sound level (L<sub>%</sub>)**

25 The sound level that is exceeded for a certain percentage of time during the measurement period. For  
26 example, an L<sub>10</sub> is the sound level exceeded 10% of the time.

27 **permanent impact (wetlands)**

28 An impact that results in a permanent loss of wetland acreage.

29 **permittee-responsible mitigation**

30 The actions required to meet the compensatory mitigation obligations are undertaken by the entities  
31 seeking a permit or an authorized agent or contractor working on their behalf. In this type of program,  
32 the permittee retains full responsibility for meeting all of the terms of the permit they receive.

33 **perennial stream**

34 Stream that flows year-round (continuously).

**1 pit run**

2 Large angular rock used to line the streambed of a waterbody crossing to support vehicle loads, to  
3 prevent soil erosion, and to minimize sediment deposits and buildup in the waterway.

**4 prime farmland**

5 A U.S. Department of Agriculture land use classification USDA (7 CFR 657.5) defining land that has a  
6 favorable growing season, adequate precipitation or irrigation source, and soil characteristics that  
7 would provide for good to excellent crop production.

**8 raptor**

9 Bird of prey.

**10 Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)**

11 A classification system developed by the U.S. Forest Service to plan, manage, and allocate recreational  
12 resources to ensure a diverse set of quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The system includes 7  
13 major classes, ranging from primitive to urban, that identify variations in the physical, social, and  
14 operational attributes of a given landscape.

**15 rectification mitigation**

16 Rectification of an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment (40 CFR  
17 1508.20).

**18 reduction or elimination mitigation**

19 Reduction or elimination of an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the  
20 life of the action (40 CFR 1508.20).

**21 residual impact**

22 An impact from a land use authorization that remains after applying avoidance, minimization,  
23 rectification, and reduction/elimination measures; also referred to as “unavoidable impacts.”

**24 right-of-way**

25 Authorization granted to use or occupy public land. A right-of-way grant authorizes access over, upon,  
26 under, and through public land for a specific time period for the construction, operation, maintenance,  
27 and termination of a project.

**28 riprap**

29 A layer of large stones used to prevent erosion in areas of concentrated runoff. Riprap can also be  
30 used on slopes that are unstable because of seepage problems.

**31 runoff**

32 The part of precipitation that discharges into streams from various sources (surface, storm seepage,  
33 and groundwater) and at different speeds after a precipitation event.

**1 sensitive species**

2 *BLM*: Special Status Plants are those plants found on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land  
3 Management whose survival is of concern due to: 1) their limited distribution, 2) low number of  
4 individuals and/or populations, and 3) potential threats to habitat.

5 *USFS*: Plant or animal species identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a  
6 concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in populations or density and  
7 significant or predicted downward trend in habitat capability.

**8 shallow bedrock**

9 Bedrock occurring 12 feet or less below the ground surface.

**10 shield wire**

11 A type of wire installed at the top of tower structures along a transmission line to protect conductors  
12 from lightning strikes by transferring the energy through the wire and structure and into the ground. Also  
13 known as a *ground wire*.

**14 siting**

15 Spatially locating (or setting into place) a structure or group of structures.

**16 special recreation management area (SRMA)**

17 A Bureau of Land Management administrative unit whose recreation opportunities or setting  
18 characteristics have unique, important, or distinct value and that therefore requires intensive  
19 management actions to meet recreation objectives regarding use, demand, access, signage, etc.

**20 special status species**

21 Plant and animal species designated by federal or state agencies for special monitoring, conservation,  
22 or protection, usually due to declining populations. This group includes threatened and endangered  
23 species, as well as other designations.

**24 special-use permit**

25 A permit that grants rights or privileges of use and occupancy under specific terms and conditions to  
26 the permit holder.

**27 staging area**

28 Designated area on a construction site for vehicle and construction equipment access and construction  
29 supplies storage.

**30 subsidence**

31 Vertical collapse of the ground surface that can occur in areas where subsurface voids exist.  
32 Subsurface voids can be natural (sinkholes, caves) or human-made (solid or liquid mineral extraction).

**33 surface water**

34 Water on the earth's surface; that is, any open body of water such a stream, river, lake, or reservoir.

**1 take**

2 Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting, or  
3 attempting to engage in any such conduct.

**4 talus**

5 Accumulation of rock debris at the base of a cliff or steep slope from physical weathering.

**6 temporary impact (wetlands)**

7 An impact that results in a short-term decrease of wetland functions. Wetland functions can be restored  
8 once a temporary impact ceases.

**9 T factor**

10 Indicator of soil-loss tolerance (that is, the maximum average rate of annual soil loss that can occur  
11 while sustaining the crop productivity of a given soil).

**12 threatened species**

13 A plant or animal species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as being threatened with  
14 extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range. This designation is lower than “endangered”  
15 and provides individuals and their habitats with the second highest legal status for protection.

**16 total maximum daily load (TMDL)**

17 Quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources, and load reductions or control  
18 actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water.

**19 traditional cultural property**

20 A place of cultural, traditional, historical, or religious importance to an American Indian tribe that is  
21 eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

**22 turbidity**

23 The state or condition of opaqueness or reduced clarity of a fluid, due to the presence of suspended  
24 matter.

**25 two-track road**

26 Primitive roads that have been established over time by the passage of motorized vehicles. These  
27 roads do not receive maintenance or grading. These roads are characterized by a set of two ruts with  
28 vegetation growing in between the wheel ruts.

**29 unavoidable impact**

30 See *residual impact*.

**31 volt**

32 A unit of electricity used to measure the electrical potential difference (pressure) that would cause a  
33 current of ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm.



**1 waterbody crossing**

2 A stream channel crossing constructed or altered for safe vehicle and pedestrian passage and minimal  
3 human disturbance to aquatic habitats and species. Examples of waterbody crossing types include  
4 drive-throughs, drive-through fords, culverts, and channel spans:

5 **drive-through:** A minimally graded/filled crossing of a seasonally dry channel.

6 **drive-through ford:** A graded and stabilized crossing of a channel.

7 **culvert:** A drainage crossing consisting of a conduit above or below the ground with a stable  
8 road surface established on top of the conduit for vehicle passage.

9 **channel-spanning structure:** A crossing used to span waterbodies containing sensitive fish  
10 species.

**11 watershed**

12 See *drainage basin*.

**13 waters of the United States**

14 All waters that are, were, or could be used in interstate or foreign commerce—this includes all interstate  
15 waters such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, tributaries, streams (including ephemeral streams), wetlands,  
16 and adjacent wetlands; all waters that are subject to ebb and flow of tides; all intrastate waters whose  
17 use, degradation, or destruction of could affect interstate or foreign commerce; and all impoundment of  
18 such waters.

**19 wetlands**

20 Generally, ecosystems whose soil is seasonally or continuously saturated for long periods, thereby  
21 creating conditions to support growth and reproduction of vegetative or aquatic life (for example,  
22 swamps, marshes, bogs, river overflow areas, mudflats, natural ponds). As defined under 33 CFR  
23 328.3 and 40 CFR 230.3 for state and federal regulatory purposes, “those areas that are inundated or  
24 saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under  
25 normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil  
26 conditions.” Wetlands are important ecological resources that perform many functions, including  
27 groundwater recharge, flood flow attenuation and conveyance, erosion control, and water-quality  
28 improvement. They also provide habitat for many plants and animals, including threatened or  
29 endangered species.

**30 wheel-line irrigation**

31 A method of crop irrigation in which a straight line of irrigation pipe that is set on wheels rolls across a  
32 field from one end to the other. A standard wheel line is 1,320 feet long.

**33 wilderness area**

34 A federally designated area that is essentially undisturbed, other than by natural forces, and retains its  
35 primitive character. Wilderness areas are designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and are  
36 protected and managed through the National Wilderness Preservation System.

1 **wilderness study area (WSA)**

2 A roadless area that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics, as defined  
3 under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964, and that is  
4 managed by the Bureau of Land Management to preserve its suitability for federal wilderness  
5 designation. Wilderness study areas typically possess special scenic, scientific, educational, or  
6 historical value, and designation as a study area is based on size (at least 5,000 acres or of  
7 manageable size), naturalness (primarily shaped by nature), and opportunities (provides for solitude  
8 or primitive/unconfined types of recreation).

9 **wildlife management area (WMA)**

10 Protected areas set aside for the conservation of wildlife and for recreational activities involving wildlife.