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5.2 GLOSSARY

This glossary defines terms used by the U.S. Forest Service and by the Bureau of Land Management to explain natural resource concepts and management activities specific to this Draft Land Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

abandoned mine: An abandoned hardrock mine on or affecting public lands administered by BLM, at which exploration, development, mining, reclamation, maintenance, and inspection of facilities and equipment, and other operations ceased as of January 1, 1981 (the effective date of BLM's Surface Management regulations codified at 43 CFR 3809) with no evidence demonstrating that the miner intends to resume mining.

Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) Program: A BLM program that focuses on reclaiming hardrock abandoned mine lands on or affecting public lands administered by the BLM.

actual use: The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks.

adaptive management: The process of implementing management decisions incrementally, so that changes can be made if the desired results are not being achieved. Adaptive management acknowledges that our understanding of complex ecological systems is limited and we may make mistakes, but the seriousness of these mistakes can be reduced by placing forest management into a consciously experimental framework, by carefully observing the ecosystem's response to our well-intentioned efforts, and by modifying our actions appropriately as we learn more about the ecosystem.

affected environment: A physical, biological, social, and economic environment within which human activity is proposed. The natural, physical and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes from the alternatives.

air pollutant: Any substance in air that could, if in high enough concentration, harm humans, animals, vegetation, or material. Air pollutants may include almost any natural or artificial matter capable of being airborne, in the form of solid particles, liquid droplets, gases, or a combination of these.

air pollution: The contamination of the atmosphere by any toxic or radioactive gases and particulate matter as a result of human activity.

air quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act (PL 88-206: Jan. 1978.).

allotment: A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may graze for a certain period. Allotments generally consist of federally managed, State owned, and/or private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotments are administered to standard when the responsible manager determines and documents that the permittee is in compliance and that applicable resource management standards are being met. Where the permittee is not in compliance, all necessary corrective actions are initiated and documented.

Allotment Management Plan (AMP): A concisely written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures, if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment. An AMP is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s), lessee(s), and other affected interests. Livestock grazing is considered in relation to other uses of the range and to renewable resources, such as watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. An AMP establishes seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted, the range improvements needed, and the grazing system. A long-term operation plan that is the implementing document for the decision made through the NEPA process and promotes progress toward Desired Conditions.

alternatives: A choice of two or more things. For NEPA purposes, alternatives to the Proposed Action must be examined in the planning process. The discussion of alternatives must define the issues and provide a clear basis for choice by the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14).

amenity: Resource use, object, feature, quality, or experience that is pleasing to the mind or senses; typically refers to values for which monetary values are not or cannot be established, such as scenic or wilderness values.

amenity migration: The movement of people for pleasure rather than economic reasons.

analysis area: The geographic area defining the scope of analysis for the project. Sometimes for a particular resource, the analysis area may have to be larger when effects have potential to extend beyond the boundaries of the proposal. May also be referred to as the “planning area.”

Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS): Assessment of the current management direction. It includes a consolidation of existing data needed in order to analyze and resolve identified issues, a description of current BLM management guidance, and a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow, an “animal unit” or its equivalent for a period of 1 month. (43 CFR 4100). The animal unit in turn is defined as one mature 1,000-pound cow and her suckling calf.

annual mortality: The average annual volume of sound wood (free from decay) in growing-stock trees that died from natural causes during the period between inventories.

Annual Operating Instructions (AOI): Annual instructions, developed with each livestock permittee, describing livestock management, livestock pasture rotations, season of use, utilization and/or residual levels, etc. These instructions implement project level NEPA decisions (AMP) or in the absence of project NEPA, the Forest plan.

aquatic ecosystems: Water dependent environments that serve as habitat for interrelated and interacting communities and populations of plants and animals. Includes the stream channel, lake or estuary bed, water, biotic communities, and the habitat features that occur therein.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC): Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required (when such areas are developed or used, or where no development is required) in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and/or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards (from BLM H-6310-1, Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures).

atmospheric deposition: Air pollution produced when acid chemicals are incorporated into rain, snow, fog or mist and fall to the earth. Sometimes referred to as “acid rain,” it comes from sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, products of burning coal and other fuels and from certain industrial processes. If the acid chemicals in the air are blown into areas where the weather is wet, the acids can fall to Earth in the rain, snow, fog or mist. In areas where the weather is dry, the acid chemicals may become incorporated into dusts or smokes.

avoidance area: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas would have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not otherwise be feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

backcountry byways: Vehicle routes that traverse scenic corridors utilizing secondary or backcountry road systems. National backcountry byways are designated by the type of road and vehicle needed to travel the byway.

base property: Land and improvements owned and used by the permittee for a farm or ranch operation and specifically designated by him to qualify for a term grazing permit.

Beneficial outcomes (Also referenced as “Recreation Benefits”): These include improved conditions, maintenance of desired conditions, prevention of worse conditions, and the realization of desired experiences.

beneficial uses: Attributes that are considered useful products of the resource.

best available science: Peer-reviewed and other quality-controlled literature, studies, or reports related to planning or project issues.

best management practices (BMPs): Methods, measures or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution including, but not limited to, structural and non-structural controls, operation and maintenance procedures, other requirements, scheduling and distribution of activities. Usually, BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, economic, and technical feasibility.

big game: Those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource. Generally includes; elk, moose, white-tailed deer, mule deer, mountain goat, bighorn sheep, black bear & mountain lion.

Biological Assessment (BA): An evaluation conducted for Federal projects requiring an environmental statement in accordance with legal requirements under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act [16 USC 1536(c)]. The purpose of the assessment is to determine whether the Proposed Action is likely to affect any endangered or threatened species.

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 with their environment (USDA Forest Service 1991). More simply it is defined as the variety of life and its processes (Keystone Report 1991).

Biological Evaluation (BE): A documented Forest Service review of Forest Service programs or activities in sufficient detail to determine how an action or proposed action may affect any threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species (FSM 2670.5). Objectives of the Biological Evaluation are to ensure that Forest Service actions do not contribute to loss of viability of any native or desired non-native plant or animal species (including threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive plant and animal species) or contribute to trends toward Federal listing of any species, and to comply with the requirements of the Endangered Species Act that actions of Federal agencies not jeopardize or adversely modify critical habitat of federally listed species (FSM - R2 Supplement 2672.41).

biological soil crusts: A complex mosaic of cyanobacteria, green algae, lichens, mosses, microfungi, and other bacteria (Belnap et al. 2001) that function as living mulch by retaining soil moisture and discouraging annual weed growth. They reduce wind and water erosion, fix atmospheric nitrogen, and contribute to soil organic matter (Eldridge and Greene 1994). Also known as cryptogamic, cryptobiotic, microbiotic, or microphytic soil crusts.

BLM special-status species: Species designated as federally endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate under the ESA, those designated by the Colorado Division of Wildlife as state endangered or threatened, and BLM Sensitive Species which are species under status review by the USFWS, species with numbers declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary, species with typically small and widely dispersed populations, or species inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

candidate species: Species for which the USFWS has sufficient information on their status and threats to support proposing the species for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act, but for which issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. Separate lists for plants, vertebrate animals, and invertebrate animals are published periodically in the Federal Register (from M6840, Special Status Species Manual) (from M6840, Special Status Species Manual).

canopy: The branches and leaves that form the crowns of trees, shrubs, or herbs. Canopy usually refers to the uppermost layer of vegetation, but can be used to describe lower layers in a multi-storied forest.

canopy cover: The percentage of the ground surface covered by the vertical downward projection of the outermost perimeter of the plant foliage in a given area.

capability: The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology, as well as the application of management practices, such as protection from insects, and disease.

carrying capacity: The average number of livestock and/or wildlife that may be sustained on a management unit compatible with management objectives for the unit. In addition to the site characteristics, it is a function of management goals and management intensity. The maximum population or level of activity that can be supported without degradation of the habitat or the population.

casual use: Activities that involve practices that do not ordinarily cause any appreciable disturbance or damage to the public lands, resources or improvements and, therefore, do not require a right-of-way grant or temporary use permit (43 CFR 2800). Also means any short-term non-commercial activity which does not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources or improvements, and which is not prohibited by closure of the lands to such activities (43 CFR 2920). Casual use generally includes the collecting of geochemical, rock, soil, or mineral specimens using hand tools, hand panning, and non-motorized sluicing. It also generally includes use of metal detectors, gold spears, and other battery-operated devices for sensing the presence of minerals, and hand battery-operated dry washers. Casual use does not include use of mechanized earth-moving equipment, truck-mounted drilling equipment, suction dredges, motorized vehicles in areas designated as closed to off-road vehicles, chemicals, or explosives. It also does not include occupancy or operations where the cumulative effects of the activities result in more than negligible disturbance.

cave: Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge and large enough to permit a person to enter, whether the entrance is excavated or naturally-formed. Such term shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other opening that is an extension of a cave entrance or that is an integral part of the cave (36 CFR 290).

cavity: The hollow excavated in a tree that is used by birds or mammals for roosting and/or reproduction.

Class I Area: The Clean Air Act defines Class I areas as National Parks over 6,000 acres, and national wilderness areas over 5,000 acres that were in existence before August of 1977. (The Weminuche Wilderness and Mesa Verde National Park are Class I Areas.)

Class II Area: In general, all areas not designated as a Class I Area are considered a Class I Area for air quality protection.

Clean Air Act (CAA) of 1963 and Amendments: Federal legislation governing air pollution control.

Clean Water Act, as amended in 1977: Legislation enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1977 to maintain and restore the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the United States. This act was formerly known as the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 USC 1344).

climate: The composite or generally prevailing weather conditions of a region throughout the year, averaged over a series of years.

closed: Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses; refer to specific definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs. For example, 43 CFR 8340.0-5 sets forth the specific meaning of “closed” as it relates to off highway vehicle use, and 43 CFR 8364 defines “closed” as it relates to closure and restriction orders (from H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

closed road: A road or segment which is restricted from certain types of use during certain seasons of the year. The prohibited use and the time period of closure must be specified.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing Federal government activities.

commercial forest products: Sawlogs, small roundwood, biomass, and other forest products removed in the process of harvesting or cutting trees from USFS lands.

community: A group of one or more populations of plants and animals in a common spatial arrangement; an ecological term used in a broad sense to include groups of various sizes and degrees of integration.

Community recreation-tourism market: A community, or communities, dependent upon public lands recreation and/or related tourism use, growth, and/or development. Major investments in facilities and visitor assistance are authorized within SRMAs where the strategy is to target demonstrated community recreation-tourism market demand. Here, recreation management actions are geared toward meeting primary recreation-tourism market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities. These opportunities are produced through maintenance of prescribed natural resource and/or community setting character and by structuring and implementing management, marketing, monitoring, and administrative actions accordingly.

Condition Class (Fire Regimes): Fire Regime Condition Classes are a measure describing the degree of departure from historical fire regimes, possibly resulting in alterations of key ecosystem components such as species composition, structural stage, stand age, canopy closure, and fuel loadings. One or more of the following activities may have caused this departure: fire suppression, timber harvesting, livestock grazing, introduction and establishment of exotic plant species, introduced insects or disease, or other management activities.

conditions of approval: Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an Application for a Permit to Drill (APD) or a Sundry Notice is approved.

conifer: Any of a group of needle- and cone-bearing evergreen trees.

connectivity: A condition in which the special arrangement of vegetation types allows organisms to move freely across the landscape.

conservation strategy: A management plan to conserve or sustain particular ecosystem elements such as rare species or habitats.

consumptive water use: Use that permanently removes water from a watershed or a confined aquifer from which it is withdrawn by activities that result in substantial evaporation and evapo-transpiration.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs to analyze and interpret environmental trends and information.

cover: Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators, breeding and rearing of young (hiding cover), or to ameliorate conditions of weather (thermal cover).

criteria: Data and information that are used to examine or establish the relative degrees of desirability among alternatives or the degree to which a course of action meets an intended objective.

critical habitat: An area occupied by a threatened or endangered 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.”

crucial winter range: That part of the overall range where 90 percent of the individuals are located during the average five winters out of ten from the first heavy snowfall to spring green-up, or during a site-specific period of winter as defined for each Colorado Division of Wildlife Data analysis unit.

cryptogamic soil or crust: A thin crust made up of mosses, lichens, algae, and bacteria, known collectively as cryptogams. Cryptogams function as soil builders, forming a spongy layer that helps protect soil from erosion, absorbs moisture, and provides nitrogen and other nutrients for plant growth. Also referred to as cryptobiotic or microbiotic soils or crusts.

cultural resource: Any prehistoric site, as well as historic site, which is more than 50 years old. The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric, or social values.

cumulative impacts: Combined impacts of the past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. For example, the impacts of a proposed timber sale and the development of a mine together result in cumulative impacts.

deciding officer: The Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management employee who has the authority to select and/or carry out a specific planning action.

deferred rotation: Rotation grazing with regard to deferring pastures beyond the growing season, if they were used early the prior year, or that have been identified as needing deferment for resource reasons.

demographic: Related to the vital statistics of human populations (size, density, growth, distribution, etc.) and the effect of these on social and economic conditions.

denning habitat: The environment lynx use when giving birth and rearing kittens until they are mobile. The most common component is large amounts of coarse woody debris to provide escape and thermal cover for kittens. Denning habitat must be within daily travel distance of winter snowshoe hare habitat – the typical maximum daily distance for females is about three to six miles. Denning habitat includes mature and old growth forests with plenty of coarse woody debris. It can also include young regenerating forests with piles of coarse woody debris, or areas where down trees are jack-strawed.

designated roads and trails: Specific roads and trails identified by the land management agency where motorized vehicle use is authorized. Road and trail designations include the types of vehicles authorized to operate on a specific route, and may also include a time of year (season) when motorized use is allowed.

desired future condition: A portrayal of the land or a resource condition that is expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved. (36 CRF part 219).

Destination Recreation – Tourism Market: National or regional recreation-tourism visitors and other constituents who value public lands as recreation-tourism destinations. Major investments in facilities and visitor assistance are authorized within SRMAs where the strategy is to target demonstrated destination recreation-tourism market demand. Here, recreation management actions are geared toward meeting primary recreation-tourism market demand for specific activity, experience, and benefit opportunities. These opportunities are produced through maintenance of prescribed natural resource and/or community setting character and by structuring and implementing management, marketing, monitoring, and administrative actions accordingly.

developed recreation: Outdoor recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are ski areas, resorts, and campgrounds.

direct impacts (direct effects): Impacts that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

dispersed recreation: Outdoor recreation in which visitors are diffused over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of the people.

disposal: Transfer of public land out of Federal ownership to another party through sale, exchange, Recreation and Public Purposes Act, Desert Land Entry or other land law statutes.

disturbance: A discrete event, either natural or human-induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecosystem.

diversity: An expression of community structure. The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area. The relative distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within an area. It is “high” if there are many equally abundant species. It is “low” if there are only a few equally abundant species.

dynamic equilibrium: Stream systems normally function within natural ranges of flow, sediment movement, temperature, and other variables, in what is termed “dynamic equilibrium.”

easement: A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another’s real property for access or other purposes.

ecological integrity: The capability of an ecosystem to maintain its composition, structure, and function over time, thus maintaining the productivity of the land and a diversity of plants and animals.

ecosystem: Areas with living organisms interacting with each other and with their physical environment. They are dynamic entities shaped by natural processes and disturbances including succession, fire, floods, and wind. Ecosystems occur at various scales, with smaller ones found within larger ones.

ecosystem diversity: The variety of ecosystem types including their composition, structure, and processes.

ecotone: An ecological community of mixed vegetation formed by the overlapping of adjoining communities.

edge: The place where plant communities meet or where successional stages or vegetative conditions within plant communities come together (Thomas 1979).

effects: “Effect” and “impact” are synonymous as used in this document. Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives). Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

elk security areas: Habitat that allows elk to remain in a defined area despite an increase in stress or disturbance associated with the hunting season or other human activities (Lyon and Christensen 1992).

eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through the determination (professional judgment) that it is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered to be outstandingly remarkable (from M-8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

emission: A release into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants.

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 (ESA): A law that sets a policy for conserving animal and plant species that are in danger of extinction.

environment: The physical conditions that exist within the area that will be affected by a proposed project, including land, water, minerals, flora, fauna, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The area involved is the area in which significant effects would occur either directly or indirectly as a result of the project. The “environment” includes both natural and human-made conditions.

environmental analysis: An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable environmental effects, including physical, biological, economic, and social consequences and their interactions; short- and long-term effects; direct, indirect, and cumulative effects.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A detailed written statement as required by section 12(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR 1508.11). An analytical document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that portrays potential impacts to the human environment of a Proposed Action and its possible alternatives. An EIS is developed for use by decision makers to weigh the environmental consequences of a potential decision.

ephemeral streams: Streams that flow only as a direct response to rainfall or snowmelt events. They have no baseflow.

erosion: Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of activities of people, animals, or natural catastrophes.

even-aged management: Actions resulting in the creation of stands in which trees of essentially the same age grow together. The difference in age between trees forming the main canopy level of a stand usually does not exceed 20 percent of the age of the stand at harvest rotation age.

even-aged regeneration harvest: A timber cutting procedure that creates a new age class of trees by using methods including clearcutting, seed tree, shelterwood, and coppice.

exclusion area: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and 302 permits, leases, and easements would not be authorized.

explicit recreation management objective: Specifically targeted recreation activity, experience, and/or benefit opportunities (i.e., recreation opportunity outputs) and their attainment (i.e., recreation outcomes).

Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA): a public lands unit identified in land use plans containing all acreage not identified as a SRMA. Recreation management actions within an ERMA are limited to only those of a custodial nature.

feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM's "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction policy and basic management guidance (from BLM National Management Strategy for OHV Use on Public Lands).

Federal Register: A daily publication which reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

federally listed species: Species that are listed by the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service as threatened or endangered.

fens: Groundwater-fed wetlands that support high biodiversity and unique plant communities. Soil in a fen is saturated with water. Saturation creates low-oxygen conditions that slow down decomposition and promotes the accumulation of organic peat over time.

final regeneration harvest: Timber harvest designed to regenerate a forest stand or release a regenerated stand. This includes clearcut, removal cut of a shelterwood or seed tree system, and selection cut.

Fire Regime Condition Class 1: Lands whose fire regimes are within the historical range of variation (HRV) and whose vegetation attributes (species composition, structure, and function) are intact.

fire suppression: All work activities connected with fire extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery of a fire and continuing until the fire is completely out.

fish habitat: The place where a population of fish species lives and its surroundings; includes the provision of life requirements such as food and cover.

fishery: The total population of fish in a stream or body of water and the physical, chemical, and biological factors affecting that population.

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

flora: The plant life characteristic of a region, period, or special environment.

fluid minerals: Oil, gas, coal bed natural gas, and geothermal resources.

forage: Plant material that is available for animal consumption.

forage reserve: A determination for an allotment, or a portion of an allotment, on which there is no current term permit obligation for some or all of the estimated livestock grazing capacity and where it has been determined to use the available forage for management flexibility when there is a loss of forage availability on other allotments because of factors such as drought, hail, or fire.

forb: An herbaceous plant without a woody stem other than those in the grass (*Poaceae*), sedge (*Cyperaceae*), or rush (*Juncaceae*) families.

forest land: Land that has at least 25 percent canopy cover of trees.

forest cover type: A descriptive classification of forest land based on the present vegetative species composition and/or locality (i.e., lodgepole pine, mixed conifer). Most stands are given a classification (stratum label), based on aerial photo interpretation, that includes the forest cover type, size class, density class, and stand development phase.

Forest Plan: A Forest Service document required by regulations for each national forest that provides general standards and guidelines for activities and that identifies area of management emphasis.

forest regulation: The control of stocking, harvests, growth, and yields on lands designated as suited for timber production to meet management objectives including sustained yield of timber products.

forest road or trail: A road or trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System and which is necessary for the protection, administration and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.

forest transportation atlas: A display of the system of roads, trails, and airfields of an administrative unit.

forest transportation system: The system of roads, trails, and airfields on National Forest System lands.

form: The mass or shape of an object, which appears unified, often defined by edge, outline, and/or surrounding space.

fragmentation: Process by which habitats are increasingly subdivided into smaller units, resulting in their increased insularity as well as losses of total habitat area.

functional at-risk: 1) Condition in which vegetation and soil are susceptible to losing their ability to sustain naturally functioning biotic communities. Human activities, past or present, may increase the risks; 2) Uplands or riparian-wetland areas that are properly functioning, but a soil, water, or vegetation attribute makes them susceptible to degradation and lessens their ability to sustain natural biotic communities. Uplands are particularly at risk if their soils are susceptible to degradation. Human activities, past or present, may increase the risks.

grade: A slope states as so many feet per mile or as ft/ft (%).

grassland: Areas dominated by grasses and forbs. These areas include foothill and mountain grasslands and grasslands vegetation types.

grazing preference: The total number of AUMs on public land apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a lessee.

ground cover: The percentage of biotic and abiotic material (other than bare soil) covering the ground surface including litter, mosses, lichens, vegetation basal area, and rock fragments. Ground cover plus bare soil equals 100%.

growing stock: A timber inventory classification of live commercial trees meeting specified standards of quality or vigor. Cull trees are excluded. Only includes trees 5.0 inches d.b.h. and larger.

habitat: An environment, which meets a specific set of physical, biological, temporal or spatial characteristics that satisfy the requirements of a plant or animal species or group of species for part or all of their life cycle. The sum total of environmental conditions of a specific place occupied by a wildlife species or a population of such species.

habitat connectivity: Habitat arrangements that allow organisms to move freely across the landscape.

habitat structural stages: Any of several developmental stages of tree stands described in terms of tree size and the extent of canopy closure they create (Wills 1987).

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

hardwoods: A conventional term for the wood of broadleaf trees. In the decision area these trees are generally confined to areas near water.

herb: A flowering plant whose above ground stem is not woody; graminoids and forbs.

Herd Management Area (HMA): Public land under the jurisdiction of the BLM that has been designated for special management emphasizing the maintenance of an established wild horse or burro herd.

hazardous substances: CERCLA term identifying those substances designated pursuant to section 1321(b)(2)(A) of Title 33, or 42 USC 9602, or listed in 40 CFR 302 or 355.

hazardous substance release: Any spilling, leaking, pumping, pouring, emitting, emptying, discharging, injecting, escaping, leaching, dumping, or disposing into the environment (including the abandonment or discarding of barrels, containers, and other closed receptacles containing any hazardous substance or pollutant or contaminant).

hazardous waste: Refers to a solid waste, or combination of solid wastes, which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical, or infectious characteristics may pose a substantial threat to human health and the environment.

hiding cover: Vegetation, primarily trees, capable of hiding 90 percent of a standing adult animal from the view of a human at a distance of 200 feet or less.

Historic Range of Variation (HRV): The range of ecological conditions, including vegetation structure and natural disturbance regimes that occurred during the reference period; the period of indigenous settlement from about 1500 to the late 1800s.

hydrophytic plant: A plant that grows in water or in very moist ground, usually found in riparian areas and wetlands.

impacts: “Effect” and “impact” are synonymous as used in this report. See definition for effects.

Impaired water body: Streams and lakes that are not meeting their designated uses due to excess pollutants.

indirect effects: Secondary effects which occur in locations other than the initial action or significantly later in time.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): A process for evaluating and selecting techniques to reduce pest populations in an ecologically, economically, and socially acceptable manner. May include the use of pesticides, cultural or silvicultural treatments, biological control agents, host resistance, genetic control, mechanical destruction or trapping, and behavioral chemicals including attractants and repellants.

integrated prescription: A multiple-use management practice used to select and schedule applications on a specific area to attain Desired Conditions and objectives. This prescription identifies and quantifies outputs, effects, benefits, and costs of all resources to the extent practical.

Interdisciplinary (ID) Team: A group of resource professionals with different expertise that collaborate to develop and evaluate resource management decisions.

intermittent stream: A stream which flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow. During the dry season and throughout minor drought periods, these streams will not exhibit flow. Geomorphological characteristics are not well defined and are often inconspicuous. In the absence of external limiting factors (pollution, thermal modifications, etc.), biology is scarce and adapted to the wet and dry conditions of the fluctuating water level.

invasive species: A non-native species whose introduction to an area causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

irretrievable impact: Commitment of a resource would be considered “irretrievable” when the project would directly eliminate the resource, its productivity, and/or its utility for the life of the project.

irreversible impact: The commitment of a resource would be “irreversible” if the project started a “process” (chemical, biological, and/or physical) that could not be stopped. As a result, the resource or its productivity, and/or its utility would be consumed, committed, or lost forever.

issue indicators: A “yardstick” for measuring or comparing any changes associated with each issue or concern by alternative.

jurisdictional wetland: A wetland area delineated and identified by specific technical criteria, field indicators, or other information for purposes of public agency jurisdiction. The public agencies that administer jurisdictional wetlands are the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Soil Conservation Service.

K factor: A soil erodibility factor used in the universal soil loss equation that is a measure of the susceptibility of soil particles to detachment and transport by rainfall and runoff. Estimation of the factor takes several soil parameters into account, including: soil texture, percent of sand greater than 0.10 mm, soil organic matter content, soil structure, soil permeability, clay mineralogy, and coarse fragments. K factor values range from .02 to .64, the greater values indicating the highest susceptibilities to erosion.

key habitat: Specific areas within the geographic area occupied by a species in 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.

key viewpoint: The point(s) commonly in use or potentially in use where the view of a management activity is the most disclosing; the location that provides the means of studying the visual impact of alternatives to the landscape.

land classification: When, under criteria of 43 CFR 2400, a tract of land has potential for either retention for multiple use management or for some form of disposal, or for more than one form of disposal, the relative scarcity of the values involved and the availability of alternative means and sites for realization of those values will be considered. Long-term public benefits will be weighed against more immediate or local benefits. The tract will then be classified in a manner, which will best promote the public interest.

land tenure adjustments: Ownership or jurisdictional changes are referred to as “Land Tenure Adjustments.” To improve the manageability of the public lands and improve their usefulness to the public, the BLM has numerous authorities for “repositioning” lands into a more consolidated pattern, disposing of lands, and entering into cooperative management agreements. These land pattern improvements are completed primarily through the use of land exchanges, but also through land sales, jurisdictional transfers to other agencies, and through the use of cooperative management agreements and leases.

land use allocation: The identification in a land use plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

land use plan: A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan level decisions developed through the planning process outlined in 43 CFR 1600, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed.

lands generally suited for timber harvest: Lands where timber production is compatible with the attainment of Desired Conditions and objectives established by the LMP, and other lands where salvage sales or other timber harvest is necessary for multi-purpose objectives other than timber production.

landscape: The aspect of the land that is characteristic of a particular region or area.

Landscape character is the combination of physical, biological and cultural attributes that gives an area its visual and cultural identity. Each attribute contributes to the uniqueness of the landscape and gives a particular place meaning and value and helps to define a “sense of place.” Landscape character provides a frame of reference from which to determine scenic attractiveness and to measure scenic integrity and scenic sustainability.

Landscape visibility addresses the relative importance and sensitivity of what is seen and perceived in the landscape. It is a function of many important and interconnected considerations such as number and context of viewers, duration of views, degree of discernable detail (which depends in part on the position of the viewer, i.e. the landscape may be superior, level with or inferior) and seasonal variation. Landscape visibility inventory and analysis consists of three elements, including travel ways and use areas, concern levels and distance zones.

late season: Fall or late summer grazing.

lease: Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) provides the BLM’s authority to issue leases for the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands. Leases are issued for purposes such as a commercial filming, advertising displays, commercial or noncommercial croplands, apiaries, livestock holding or feeding areas not related to grazing permits and leases, harvesting of native or introduced species, temporary or permanent facilities for commercial purposes (does not include mining claims), residential occupancy, ski resorts, construction equipment storage sites, assembly yards, oil rig stacking sites, mining claim occupancy if the residential structures are not incidental to the mining operation, and water pipelines and well pumps related to irrigation and non-irrigation facilities. The regulations establishing procedures for the processing of these leases and permits are found in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 2920.

lek: A specific location where male grouse congregate and strut to attract and breed with female grouse. Most male grouse return to the same lek every year.

lifeways: The manner and means by which a group of people lives; their way of life. Components include language(s), subsistence strategies, religion, economic structure, physical mannerisms, and shared attitudes.

Limited (BLM): Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

linkage area: An area that provides connectivity between blocks of lynx habitat. Linkage areas occur both within and between geographic areas, where basins, valleys or agricultural lands separate blocks of lynx habitat, or where lynx habitat naturally narrows between blocks. (LCAS updated definition approved by the Steering Committee 10/23/01).

litter: The dead vegetation on the ground surface usually consisting of leaves, needles, twigs, and bark.

live cull: Live trees that are 5.0 inches d.b.h. and larger, that are 66% rotten or unable to produce a saw log.

livestock: Species of domestic animals including cattle, sheep, horses, burros, and goats.

locatable minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Long-term Sustained-yield Timber Capacity: The highest wood yield that may be sustained under specified management intensities consistent with multiple-use objectives after stands have reached Desired Conditions.

lower montane: A terrestrial community that generally is found in drier and warmer environments than the montane terrestrial community. The lower montane community supports a unique clustering of wildlife species.

Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs): An area of at least the size used by an individual lynx, from about 25 to 50 mi² (LCAS). An LAU is a unit for which the effects of a project would be analyzed; its boundaries should remain constant.

lynx habitat: Primarily coniferous forests that provide a prey base of snowshoe hare.

maintenance level: Maintenance levels define the level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road. There are five maintenance levels that are described as follows:

Level 1 - Assigned to intermittent service roads during the time they are closed to vehicular traffic. Closures must be for 1 or more years. Basic custodial maintenance is performed to keep damage to adjacent resources to an acceptable level and to perpetuate the road to facilitate future management activities.

Level 2 - Assigned to roads open for use by high clearance vehicles. Road in this maintenance level are low speed, single lane and native surface.

Level 3 - Assigned to roads open and maintained for travel by a prudent driver in a standard passenger car. User comfort and convenience are not considered priorities. Roads in this maintenance level are typically low speed, single lane with turnouts and spot surfacing. Some roads may be fully surfaced with either native or processed material.

Level 4 - Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds. Most roads are double lane and aggregate surfaced. However, some roads may be single lane. Some roads may be paved and/or dust abated.

Level 5 - Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. These roads are normally double lane, paved facilities. Some may be aggregate surfaced and dust abated.

management area: An area of land used in planning that consists of similar analysis area, has one prescription assigned, and may not be contiguous.

management direction: A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

management indicator species (MIS): A species of wildlife, fish, or plant whose health and vigor are believed to accurately reflect the health and vigor of other species having similar habitat and protection needs to those of the selected indicator species.

mean annual increment and culmination of mean annual increment: The total increment of increase of volume of a stand (standing crop plus thinning) up to a given age divided by that age. Culmination of mean annual increment is the age in the growth cycle of an even-aged stand at which the average annual rate of increase of volume is at a maximum. In land management plans, mean annual increment is expressed in cubic measure and is based on the expected growth of stands, according to intensities and utilization guidelines in the plan document or set of documents.

metapopulation: A set of partially isolated populations belonging to the same species. The populations are able to exchange individuals and re-colonize sites in which the species has recently become extinct.

mineral: Any naturally formed inorganic material, solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the earth, any of various naturally occurring homogeneous substances (as stone, coal, salt, sulfur, sand, petroleum, water, or natural gas) obtained for man's use, usually from the ground. Under Federal laws, considered as locatable (subject to the general mining laws), leasable (subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920), and salable (subject to the Materials Act of 1947).

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

mineral estate: The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, mining, ore dressing, and transportation operations.

mineral materials: Materials such as sand and gravel and common varieties of stone, pumice, pumicite, and clay that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws, but that can be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

mineral: Any naturally formed inorganic material, solid or fluid inorganic substance that can be extracted from the earth, any of various naturally occurring homogeneous substances (as stone, coal, salt, sulfur, sand, petroleum, water, or natural gas) obtained for man's use, usually from the ground. Under Federal laws, considered as locatable (subject to the general mining laws), leasable (subject to the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920), and salable (subject to the Materials Act of 1947).

mitigation measure: Actions taken to reduce or eliminate effects (impacts) from management actions, including: 1) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking certain action or parts of an action; 2) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; 3) rectifying the impacts by repairing, rehabilitating or restoring the affected environment; 4) reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and 5) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20).

modification: A visual quality objective meaning activities by humans may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, utilize naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground.

monitoring and evaluation: The evaluation, on a sample basis, of management practices to determine how well objectives are being met, as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

montane: Inhabiting the cool, moist ecological zone located near the timberline and usually dominated by evergreen trees.

motor vehicle: Any vehicle which is self-propelled, other than a vehicle operated on rails and any wheelchair or mobility device, included on that is battery-powered, that is designed solely for use by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion, and that is suitable for use in an indoor pedestrian area.

motor vehicle use map: A map reflecting designated roads, trails, and areas on an administrative unit or a Ranger District of the National Forest System.

motorized wheeled vehicle: Includes all types of motorized wheeled vehicles capable of or designed for, travel on or immediately over land or other natural terrain (motorcycles, four-wheel drive vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks, etc.) and includes those vehicles that have the driving wheels moving inside endless tracks, or capable of conversion to such method of travel.

multiple use: The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest unit output.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): An act which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment; promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of people; enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation; and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality; 40 CFR 1500-1508 are the regulations for implementing the act.

NEPA process: All measures necessary to comply with the requirements of Section 2 and Title 1 of NEPA. An interdisciplinary process, mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, which concentrates decision-making around issues, concerns, alternatives and the effects of alternatives on the environment.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA): 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 lands reserved or withdrawn from the public domain of the United States, all national forest lands acquired through purchase, exchange, donation, or other means, the national grasslands and land utilization projects administered under Title 111.

National Forest System road: A forest road other than a road that has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority.

National Forest System trail: A forest trail other than a trail which has been authorized by a legally documented ROW held by a State, county, or other local public road authority.

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

native fish: Fish species that are indigenous to a region's waters, as opposed to introduced or exotic fish.

native species: Species that normally live and thrive in a particular ecosystem.

naturalness: Refers to an area that "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with, the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" (Set 2[c] of the Wilderness Act of 1964).

NatureServe: A non-profit conservation organization that provides the scientific information and tools needed to help guide effective conservation action. It represents an international network of biological inventories – known as natural heritage programs or conservation data centers – operating in all 50 U.S. states, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

net annual growth: The average net annual increase in the volume of trees during the period between inventories. Components include the increment in net volume of trees at the beginning of the specific year surviving to its end, plus the net volume of trees reaching the minimum size class during the year, minus the volume of trees that died during the year, and minus the net volume of trees that became cull trees during the year.

No-Action Alternative: The No-Action Alternative is required by regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1502.14). The No-Action Alternative provides a baseline for estimating the effects of other alternatives. Where a project activity is being evaluated, the No-Action Alternative is defined as one where no action or activity would take place.

non-functional: Riparian areas that lack the soil, water, or vegetation attributes to function properly and that are highly susceptible to degradation.

non-functioning condition: 1) Condition in which vegetation and ground cover are not maintaining soil conditions that can sustain natural biotic communities; 2) Riparian-wetland areas are considered to be in non-functioning condition when they do not provide adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris to dissipate stream energy associated with high flows and thus are not reducing erosion, improving water quality, or other normal characteristics of riparian areas. The absence of a floodplain may be an indicator of nonfunctioning condition.

non-game species: Those species of animals that are not managed as a sport hunting resource.

non-point source pollution: Pollution whose source is not specific in location; the sources of the pollutant discharge are dispersed, not well defined or constant. Examples include sediments from logging activities and runoff from agricultural chemicals.

not suitable for timber production: Forest land for which timber production is not a management objective (36 CFR 219.12 and FSM 1921.12). These are lands where: a.) statute, Executive order, or regulation prohibits timber production on the land; or the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service have withdrawn the land from timber production; b.) the land is not forest land; c.) timber production would not be compatible with the achievement of Desired Conditions and objectives established by the LMP for those lands; or d.) timber is generally not suitable for harvest.

noxious weeds: Plants designated as noxious by the Secretary of Agriculture or by the responsible state official. They are usually an invasive species. They generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host of serious insects or disease, non-native, new, or not common to the United States. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (PL 93-639), a noxious weed is one that causes disease or has other adverse effects on people or their environment and therefore is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and to the public health.

off-highway vehicle (OHV): Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain. Travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense.

off-road: Any motorized travel that is not on the designated road and trail system.

old growth: Forest lands that meet the old-growth descriptions for the Rocky Mountain Region as outlined in Mehl, 1992. Old-growth forests represent the late stages of forest development and are primarily distinguished by old trees, large trees, snags, and large wood on the forest floor.

Open (BLM): Designated areas and trails where off-road vehicles may be operated, subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth by land management agencies; or an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, subject to the standards set forth by land management agencies.

Outstanding Waters: An Outstanding Waters designation offers the highest level of water-quality protection available under the Clean Water Act and under Colorado regulations. This designation is designed to prevent any degradation from existing conditions.

outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs): Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: “scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values...” Other similar values, which may be considered, include ecological, biological or botanical, paleontological, hydrological, scientific or research values (from M-8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

ozone: A faint blue gas produced in the atmosphere from chemical reactions of such sources as burning coal, gasoline and other fuels, and chemicals found in products including solvents, paints, hairsprays, etc.

perennial stream: Perennial streams carry flowing water continuously throughout the year, regardless of weather conditions. It exhibits well-defined geomorphological characteristics and in the absence of pollution, thermal modifications, or other man-made disturbances has the ability to support aquatic life. During hydrological drought conditions, the flow may be impaired.

permit long: Grazing for the duration of the permitted time with care taken not to overuse the resource.

permitted livestock: Livestock presently being grazed under a permit or those that were grazed under a permit during the preceding season, including their offspring retained for herd replacement.

permitted use: The forage allocated by, or under the guidance of, an applicable land use plan for livestock grazing in an allotment under a permit or lease, and is expressed in Animal Unit Months (AUMs) (43 CFR Section 4100.0-5) (from H-4180-1, BLM Rangeland Health Standards Manual).

plan amendment: The system that provides a step-by-step process for considering multiple resource values, resolving conflicts, and making resource management decisions.

planning criteria: The factors used to guide development of the resource management plan, or revision, to ensure that it is tailored to the issue previously identified and to ensure that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided. Planning criteria are developed to guide the collection and use of inventory data and information, analysis of the management situation, design and formulation of alternatives, estimation of the effects of alternatives, evaluation of alternatives, and selection of the preferred alternative.

planning horizon: The overall time period that spans all activities covered in the LMP and all future conditions and effects of proposed actions that would influence the planning decisions. This is typically considered 50 years.

population: Organisms of the same species that occur in a particular place at a given time. In statistics, the aggregate of all units forming the subject of study; otherwise, a community of individuals that share a common gene pool.

potential natural vegetation (PNV): The stable vegetation community which could occupy a site under current climatic conditions without further influence by humans. Often used interchangeably with “Potential Natural Community”.

preferred alternative: The agency’s preferred alternative, one or more, that is identified in the impact statement (40 CFR 1502.14).

prescribed burning: The intentional application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state under such conditions as to allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread required to further certain planned objectives (i.e., silviculture, wildlife management, reduction of fuel hazard, etc.).

prescribed fire: A fire purposely ignited to meet specific objectives (See prescribed burn).

prevention of significant deterioration (PSD): An air pollution-permitting program intended to ensure that air quality does not diminish in attainment areas.

primary succession: The establishment and subsequent changes in a community from newly formed habitats without plants (e.g. sand dunes, lava flows, or newly exposed rock). Involves much modification of the environment by early colonists = pioneer species (such as lichens and mosses, beach grasses) which in terrestrial environments stabilize and enrich or even generate soil.

primitive and unconfined recreation: Non-motorized, non-mechanized (except as provided by law), and undeveloped types of recreational activities. Bicycles are considered mechanical transport.

productivity: The capacity of USFS lands and their ecological systems to provide the various renewable resources in certain amounts in perpetuity (36 CFR 219.16).

programmatic EIS: An environmental impact statement that establishes a broad management direction for an area by establishing a goal, objective, standard, management prescription and monitoring and evaluation requirement for different types of activities that are permitted. It also can establish what activities are not permitted within the specific area(s). This document does not mandate or authorize the permitted activities to proceed.

project: The whole of an action, which has the potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment.

project area: The geographic area defining the scope of this document and the alternatives proposed by it.

project file: An assemblage of documents that contains all the information developed or used during an environmental analysis. This information may be summarized in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. The project file becomes part of the administrative record for judicial review in case of legal action.

proper functioning condition (PFC): 1) An element of the Fundamental of Rangeland Health for watersheds, and therefore a required element of State or regional standard and guidelines under 43 CFR Section 4180.2(b); 2) Condition in which vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions that can sustain natural biotic communities; 3) Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality; filter sediment, capture bedload, and aid floodplain development; improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; develop root masses that stabilize stream banks against cutting action; develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and the water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and support greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water, and vegetation; 4) Uplands function properly when the existing vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. The functioning condition of uplands is influenced by geomorphic features, soil, water, and vegetation.

proposed action: A description of the project as proposed by the project proponent in the Special Use Permit application.

public lands or BLM lands: Any land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management.

public scoping: Giving the public the opportunity for free, unhampered, speaking or writing concerning the intentions, activity, or influence of a project on the community and environment.

range analysis: Systematic acquisition and evaluation of rangeland resource data needed for allotment management planning and overall land management.

range improvement: An authorized physical modification or treatment which is designed to improve production of forage; change vegetation composition; control patterns of use; provide water; stabilize soil and water conditions; and restore, protect and improve the condition of rangeland ecosystems to benefit livestock, wild horses and burros, and fish and wildlife. The term includes, but is not limited to, structures, treatment projects, and use of mechanical devices or modifications achieved through mechanical means (43 CFR 4100).

rangelands: Lands that produce or are capable of producing forage for grazing and browsing animals. It includes grasslands, forblands, shrublands, and forested lands.

rangeland condition: The present state of a rangeland relative to the potential of that rangeland, usually associated with the composition, abundance, and distribution of plant species relative to the potential natural community for that rangeland.

Ranger District: An administrative subdivision of the national forest system, supervised by a district ranger who reports to the forest supervisor.

reasonable foreseeable development (RFD) scenario: The prediction of the type and amount of oil and gas activity that would occur in a given area. The prediction is based on geologic factors, past history of drilling, projected demand for oil and gas, and industry interest.

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

Record of Decision (ROD): A concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale used to reach that decision.

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act of 1926: Recreation and Public Purposes Act provided for the lease and sale of public lands determined valuable for public purposes. The objective of the R&PP Act is to meet the needs of State and local government agencies and non-profit organizations by leasing or conveying public land required for recreation and public purpose uses. Examples of uses made of R&PP lands are parks and greenbelts, sanitary landfills, schools, religious facilities, and camps for youth groups. The act provides substantial cost-benefits for land acquisition and provides for recreation facilities or historical monuments at no cost.

recreation experiences: Psychological outcomes realized either by recreation-tourism participants as a direct result of their onsite leisure engagements and recreation-tourism activity participation or by non-participating community residents as a result of their interaction with visitors and guests within their community and/or interaction with public land (BLM/USFS) and other public and private recreation-tourism providers and their actions.

recreation management zones (RMZ): Sub-units within a SRMA managed for distinctly different recreation products. Recreation products are comprised of recreation opportunities, the natural resource and community settings within which they occur, and the administrative and service environment created by all affecting recreation-tourism providers, within which recreation participation occurs.

recreation niche: The place or position within the strategically targeted recreation-tourism market for each SRMA that is most suitable (i.e., capable of producing certain specific kinds of recreation opportunities) and appropriate (i.e., most responsive to identified visitor or resident customers), given available supply and current demand, for the production of specific recreation opportunities and the sustainable maintenance of accompanying natural resource and/or community setting character.

recreation opportunities: Favorable circumstances enabling visitors' engagement in a leisure activity to realize immediate psychological experiences and attain more lasting, value-added beneficial outcomes.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS): The ROS offers a framework to establish the desired setting conditions of access, remoteness, naturalness, built environment, social encounters, visitor impacts, and management for all areas of the SJPL. These conditions are shown on the Established ROS Settings Map.

Projects and activities shall be consistent with the established ROS settings. Because this map shows broad desired setting conditions for the entire SJPL, site specific analysis is generally necessary to further refine desired setting conditions that may apply to site specific projects.

Pristine areas provide outstanding opportunity for solitude, natural quiet, and isolation; sights and sounds of development do not intrude on the experience. Lands are managed to protect and perpetuate their pristine conditions. Encounters with others are rare. All travel is cross-country. There is no lasting evidence of camping activity, social trails, or other human impacts. Indirect methods of accomplishing management objectives predominate.

Primitive areas are an essentially unmodified natural environment. These areas offer a moderate degree of solitude and natural quiet, and are managed to allow natural ecological change to occur uninterrupted. Human influence on vegetation is minimal. There may be evidence of campsites. Campsites are dispersed; usually one will not hear or see visitors at adjacent campsites. Maintained trails exist and user-established trails are evident. Evidence of management is minor.

Semi-primitive areas are managed to protect the natural environment and provide access to primitive or pristine areas. Encounters with other users may be frequent in some concentrated use areas. Constructed and maintained trails support access to popular destinations. Use is often heavily concentrated day-use, however, over-night camping occurs. Management emphasizes sustaining and protecting natural conditions. Management actions to mitigate visitor use impacts may be noticeable. Human use and activities within the area may be evident.

SPNM – Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized non-wilderness backcountry areas are characterized by a quiet, predominantly natural-appearing environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are not evident. Recreation opportunities are primarily those which provide opportunities for self-reliance and challenge. Concentrations of users are low. Common recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, backpacking, and camping.

SPM – Semi-Primitive Motorized landscapes are similar in naturalness to SPNM landscapes with motorized travel. Travel is over designated trails or high-clearance, four-wheel drive roads. Roads are designed primarily for low speeds and with native surfacing. Road and trail density provide for a sense of remoteness and solitude. Common recreation activities include motorized trail riding, four-wheel driving, visiting cultural sites, hunting, fishing, and dispersed camping.

RN – Roaded Natural lands are generally high use travel corridors with a high level of visitor services and associated development. Concentrations of users can be moderate to high. The areas often take on a mosaic of development and resource evidence from highly modified areas to pockets of unmodified lands. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards such as road widths and surface hardening. Road development levels are native surfaced high-clearance to levels that will accommodate passenger vehicles. OHV travel is common on forest roads and trails. Road and trail densities are moderate to high and interaction with the other users is to be expected. Developed campgrounds, picnic areas, trailhead, and interpretive sites may be present within this setting. Constructed recreation facilities provide for resource protection, visitor information and comfort. Hunting, fishing, biking, hiking, and viewing scenery are common activities.

R – Rural areas are substantially modified although they may have natural appearing elements. Facilities are almost always designed for a large number of people and roads are generally paved. Rural areas are characterized by substantially modified natural environment. The landscape is often dominated by human-caused geometric patterns; there is also a dominant sense of open, green-space. Development of facilities is for user comfort such as pavement on roads and trails, and convenience amenities within campgrounds. Common facilities within this setting would be visitor centers, developed campgrounds that provide electricity and showers, areas with multiple facility developments such as lodges, campgrounds, and recreation residences. Driving for pleasure, viewing scenery and cultural features, camping, and picnicking are common activities.

recreation setting character conditions: The distinguishing recreational qualities of any landscape, objectively defined along a continuum ranging from primitive to urban landscapes, expressed in terms of the nature of the component parts of its physical, social and administrative attributes. These recreational qualities can be both classified and mapped. This classification and mapping process should be based on variation that either exists (i.e., setting descriptions) or is desired (i.e., setting prescriptions) among component parts of the various physical, social, and administrative attributes of any landscape. The recreation opportunity spectrum is one of the existing tools for doing this.

recreation settings: The collective, distinguishing attributes of landscapes that influence, and sometimes actually determine, what kinds of recreation opportunities are produced.

recreation-tourism market: Recreation-tourism visitors, affected community residents, affecting local governments and private sector businesses, or other constituents and the communities or other places where these customers originate (local, regional, national, or identify primary recreation-tourism markets for each SRMA).

recreation visitor days (RVDs): One 12-hour period of recreation. It can be one person for 12 hours, 2 people for 6 hours, 12 people for 1 hour, etc.

reference period: The period of indigenous settlement from about 1500 to the late 1800s. It is a time when broad-scale climatic conditions were similar to those of today, but Euro-American settlers had not yet introduced the sweeping ecological changes (including timber harvest, livestock grazing, fire suppression, water diversions, dams, and roads) that have greatly altered many Rocky Mountain landscapes.

recreational river: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

remnant plant species: A remnant or fragment of the vegetation of an area that remains from a former period when the vegetation was more widely distributed.

resilient: The capability to withstand or recover from disturbance or change.

Resource Management Plan (RMP): A BLM planning document, prepared in accordance with Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives, and actions to be achieved. It presents systematic guidelines for making resource management decisions for a planning area. An RMP is based on an analysis of an area's resources, existing management, and capability for alternative uses. RMPs are issue oriented and developed by an interdisciplinary team with public participation.

restoration: The process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. It is an intentional activity that initiates or accelerates the recovery of an ecosystem with respect to its health, integrity, and sustainability.

rest rotation: Grazing rotation that rests pastures that have been grazed early the prior year or that have been identified as needing rest for resource reasons.

restricted road: A National Forest road or segment which is restricted from a certain type of use or all uses during certain seasons of the year or yearlong. The use being restricted and the time period must be specified. The closure is legal when the Forest Supervisor has issued an Order and posted that Order in accordance with 36 CFR 261.

revegetation: The reestablishment and development of a plant cover. This may take place naturally through the reproductive processes of the existing flora, or artificially through the direct action of reforestation or reseeding.

Right-of-Way (ROW): The public lands authorized to be used or occupied for specific purposes pursuant to a right-of-way grant, which are in the public interest and which require rights-of-way over, upon, under, or through such lands.

riparian: A type of ecological community that occurs adjacent to streams and rivers. It is characterized by certain types of vegetation, soils, hydrology and fauna and requires free or unbound water or conditions more moist than that normally found in the area.

riparian area: A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

road: A motor vehicle route over 50 inches wide, unless identified and managed as a trail that has been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. (A way maintained strictly by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road.)

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

roadless area: A national forest area which: 1) is larger than 5,000 acres, or if smaller than 5,000 acres, contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area; 2) contains no roads; and 3) has been inventoried for possible inclusion in the wilderness preservation system.

Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II): Roadless areas inventoried in the second roadless area review and evaluation (36 CFR 219.17).

rock art: Petroglyphs (carvings) or pictographs (painting) used by native persons to depict their history and culture.

rotation: The number of years (including the regeneration period) required to establish and grow timber crops to a specified condition or maturity under even-aged management. Selected integrated prescriptions in the land management plan provide the basis for the rotation age. This is used to calculate the contribution to long-term sustained-yield capacity for the LMP area from lands suitable for timber production.

rotation age: The period of years between when a forest stand (i.e., primarily even-aged) is established (i.e., regeneration) and when it receives its final harvest. This time period is an administrative decision based on economics, site condition, growth rates, and other factors.

routes: A combination of roads, trails, or ways that are used by motorized vehicles (including jeeps, all terrain vehicles, motorized dirt bikes, etc.), mechanized uses (mountain bikes, wheelbarrows, game carts), pedestrians (hikers), and/or equestrians (horseback riders).

satisfactory rangeland conditions: Rangelands are considered to have satisfactory rangeland conditions if current conditions are meeting or moving toward the Desired Conditions identified in an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) or in a Land Health Determination (LHD). Desired conditions in an AMP or LHD and are developed using the BLM Colorado Public Land Health Standards (USDOI BLM 1997) and the Rangeland Analysis and Management Training Guide (USDA FS Rocky Mountain Region 1996).

scenic byways: Highway routes, which have roadsides or corridors of special aesthetic, cultural, or historic value. An essential part of the highway is its scenic corridor. The corridor may contain outstanding scenic vistas, unusual geologic features, or other natural elements.

Scenic attractiveness is a measure of the landscape's scenic importance based on common human perceptions of the intrinsic scenic beauty of landforms, rock forms, water forms, vegetation patterns, and cultural features. There are three levels of inherent scenic attractiveness that classify the scenic quality of natural landscapes. (Reference SMS)

Class A - Distinctive: areas where features of landform, vegetative patterns, water forms and rock formation are of unusual or outstanding scenic quality.

Class B - Common: areas where features contain variety in form, line, color and texture or combinations thereof but which tend to be common throughout the landscape province and are not outstanding scenic quality.

Class C - Undistinguished: areas whose features have little change in form, line, color, or texture. Includes all areas not found under Classes A and B.

Scenic sustainability is a measure of the degree to which the ecosystem is likely able to restore, maintain, or continue to exhibit the positive dominant attributes of the landscape character. It is a continuum that ranges from high to low. High scenic sustainability is a prediction that all positive dominant attributes of the landscape character are perpetuated (during the planning period), moderate is a prediction that there is some loss of attributes, and low is the loss of most or all attributes.

Scenic integrity is a measure of the lack of noticeable human-caused disturbance in the area that detracts from the dominant, valued attributes of landscape character. The baseline from which to measure scenic integrity is dependent upon a complete and accurate description of the important and dominant positive landscape character attributes that are viewed at the time of measurement. It can be used to describe scenery in the past, as it presently exists, and as predicted in the future. Scenic integrity is a continuum that ranges from very high to low. Landscapes with a high degree of scenic integrity have virtually no discordant elements and contain only positive human alterations. They are intact, unimpaired and appear to be in good visual condition. On the opposite end of the continuum, landscapes with low scenic integrity usually have negative human alterations and are in poor visual condition. They often contain discordant and contrasting features such as geometric shapes resulting from vegetative treatment, structures that do not blend with their surroundings, or roads that create large cut and fill slopes across steep hillsides.

Scenic Integrity Levels:

Very High – refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “is” intact with only minute if any deviations. The existing landscape character and sense of place is expressed at the highest possible level.

High – refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears” intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.

Moderate – refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears slightly altered.” Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

Low – refers to landscape where the valued landscape character “appears moderately altered.” Deviations begin to dominate the valued landscape character being viewed but they borrow valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles outside the landscape being viewed. They should not only appear as valued character outside the landscape being viewed but compatible or complimentary to the character within.

Very Low – refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character “appears heavily altered.” Deviations may strongly dominate the valued landscape character. They may not borrow from valued attributes such as size, shape, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed. However deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the compositions.

scenic river: A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

scoping: The procedures by which the Forest Service and the BLM determine the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action, i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be addressed, identification of significant issues related to a proposed action, and establishing the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed.

scrubland: Areas dominated by woody shrubs. These areas include sagebrush, salt desert shrub, and mountain shrub vegetation types.

season of use: The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given range area, as specified in the grazing lease.

seasonal closure: A temporary closure of an area or road for a part of the year.

Section 404 Permit: A permit issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as dictated in Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, that specifies that anyone wishing to place dredged or fill materials into the waters of the United States and adjacent jurisdictional wetlands shall apply to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approval.

secondary succession: Results from changes in an area that previously had a vegetation community where disturbance (i.e., surface disturbance, insect pest or disease) reset the stage of the community to an earlier point in the succession process but did not reset it to the primary succession stage.

sediment: Material suspended in liquid or air. Any material carried in suspension by water, which will ultimately settle to the bottom. Sediment has two main sources: from the channel area itself and from disturbed sites.

self-sustaining population: A population of organisms that has appropriate characteristics, including the abundance and distribution of individuals of the population, to provide for its long-term persistence.

semi-arid: Moderately dry; region or climate where moisture is normally greater than under arid conditions but still definitely limits the production of vegetation.

sensitive species: A plant or animal listed by a State of Federal agency as being of environmental concern that includes, but is not limited to, threatened and endangered species.

sensitivity level: A particular degree or measure of viewer interest in the scenic qualities of the landscape.

seral: The stage of succession of a plant community that is transitional. If left alone, the seral stage will give way to another plant community that represents a further stage of succession.

severe winter range: Areas within the winter range where 90% of the individuals are located when annual snow pack is at its maximum and/or temperatures are at a minimum in the two worst winters out of ten.

shrub: A plant with persistent woody stems and relatively low growth form; usually produces several basal shoots as opposed to a single bole; differs from a tree by its low stature and non-arborescent form.

significant: As used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts, such as society as a whole and the affected region, interests, and locality. Intensity refers to the severity of impacts (40 CFR 1508.27).

significant effect: A substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, water, minerals, flora, fauna, and objects of historic or aesthetic significance.

silvicultural system: A planned series of treatments for tending, harvesting, and re-establishing a stand. The system name is based on the number of age classes (coppice, even-aged, two-aged, uneven-aged) or the regeneration method (clearcutting, seed tree, shelterwood, selection, coppice) used.

snag: A standing dead tree.

soil productivity: The inherent capacity of a soil to support the growth of specified plants or plant communities.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): A public lands unit identified in land use plans to direct recreation funding and personnel to fulfill commitments made to provide specific, structured recreation opportunities (i.e., activity, experience, and benefit opportunities). The BLM recognizes three distinct types of SRMAs: community-based; intensive; and undeveloped big open (H-1601-1, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook).

special-status species: Refers to federally listed threatened or endangered species, Federal candidate species, species recognized as requiring special protection by State agencies, and species managed as sensitive species by the USFS and/or by the BLM.

special use permit: A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of National Forest System lands for some special purpose.

species: Any member of the currently accepted and scientifically defined plant or animal kingdoms of organisms” (USDA Forest Service 2005). A unit of classification of plants and animals consisting of the largest and most inclusive array of sexually reproducing and cross-fertilizing individuals which share a common gene pool.

species of concern: Species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be necessary to prevent listing under the Endangered Species Act.

species of interest: Species for which the Responsible Official determines that management actions may be necessary or desirable to achieve ecological or other multiple-use objectives.

split season: Removing livestock from the allotment and returning them later in the year within the permitted time.

stand: A vegetation community sufficiently uniform in composition, age, spatial arrangement, or condition to be distinguishable from an adjacent vegetation community.

standard: A particular action, level of performance, or threshold specified by the Forest Plan for resource protection or accomplishment of management objectives. Unlike “guidelines” which are optional, standards specified in the Forest Plan are mandatory.

State Implementation Plan (SIP): A detailed description of the programs a State will use to carry out its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act. State implementation plans are collections of the regulations used by a state to reduce air pollution.

stocking: The degree to which trees occupy the land, measured by basal area or the number of trees per given area.

structure: The horizontal and vertical distribution of components in a vegetation community including the height, diameter, crown layers, and stems of the plants, and the amount and arrangement of snags and down woody material.

Structure Recreation Management Area (SRMA): In this plan the term has the same meaning as Bureau of Land Management planning term Special Recreation Management Area. This plan already uses the term special area to denote small areas that possess one or more special features or characteristics that make them and their management unique for other areas. This includes RNAs, ACECs, Archeological areas.

subalpine: A terrestrial community that generally is found in harsher environments than the montane terrestrial community. Subalpine communities are generally colder than montane and support a unique clustering of wildlife species.

succession: The progressive replacement of plant communities on a site which leads to the potential natural community.

suitability: The appropriateness of a particular area of land for applying certain resource management practices, as determined by an analysis of the existing resource condition of that land. A unit of land may be suitable for a variety of management practices.

suitable habitat: Habitat that currently has the attributes needed for a given species.

sustainability: Obtaining yields and services from ecosystems without irreversibly affecting their resilience, natural resistance to change, or ability to meet the needs of future generations.

summer range: A range, usually at higher elevation, used by deer and elk during the summer; a summer range is usually much more extensive than a winter range.

sustained yield: sustained yield of wood fiber that properly harvested and mitigated, would sustain the underlying ecosystem processes.

take: To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, kill, trap, capture, or collect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

temporary road or trail: A road or trail necessary for emergency operations or authorized by contract, permit, lease, or other written authorization that is not a forest road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

terrestrial ecosystem: Ecosystems that occur in relatively dry, upland landscape positions.

thermal cover: Vegetation used by animals to modify the adverse effects of weather. A forest stand that is at least 40 feet in height with tree canopy cover of at least 70 percent provides thermal cover. These stand conditions are achieved in closed sapling-pole stands and by all older stands unless the canopy cover is reduced below 70 percent. deciduous stands may serve as thermal cover in summer, but not in winter.

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 (FSM 2670.5).

tiering: The use of a previously written environmental document with a broad scope to cover discussion of issues common to both.

timber harvest: The removal of trees for wood fiber use and other multiple-use purposes.

timber production: The purposeful growing, tending, harvesting, and regeneration of regulated crops of trees to be cut into logs, bolts, or other round sections for industrial or consumer use (36 CFR 219.16).

timber sale program quantity (TSPQ): The estimated output of timber from the LMP area. The estimate is displayed as an average annual cubic foot output for a decade. It includes projected outputs from lands generally suitable for timber harvest. The projected timber outputs reflect past and projected budget levels and organizational capacity to achieve the Desired Conditions and objectives in the plan (36 CFR 219.12 and FSM 1921.12).

total maximum daily load (TMDL): An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources: point, non-point, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

traditional cultural property: A property that derives significance from traditional values associated with it by a social and/or cultural group such as an Indian tribe or local community. A traditional cultural property may qualify for the National Register if it meets the criteria and criteria exceptions at 36 CFR 60.4. See National Register Bulletin 38.

trail: A route 50 inches or less in width or a route over 50 inches wide that is identified and managed as a trail.

tribe: Term used to designate a Federally recognized group of American Indians and their governing body. Tribes may be comprised of more than one band.

unauthorized road or trail: A road or trail that is not a forest road or trail or a temporary road or trail and that is not included in a forest transportation atlas.

understory: Vegetation (trees or shrubs) growing under the canopy formed by taller trees.

undertaking: A term with legal definition and application i.e., “actions carried out by or on behalf of the agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license, or approval; and those subject to State or local regulation administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a federal agency.” (See National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and Section 301(7), Appendix 5; 36 CFR Part 800).

Undeveloped Recreation - Tourism Market: National, regional, and/or local recreation tourism visitors, communities, or other constituents who value public lands for the distinctive kinds of dispersed recreation produced by the vast size and largely open, undeveloped character of their recreation settings. Major investments and facilities are excluded within SRMAs where the strategy is to target demonstrated undeveloped recreation-tourism market demand. Here, recreation management actions are geared toward meeting primary recreation-tourism market demand to sustain distinctive recreation setting characteristics; however, major investments in visitor services are authorized both to sustain those distinctive setting characteristics and to maintain visitor freedom to choose where to go and what to do - all in response to demonstrated demand for undeveloped recreation.

upland: The portion of the landscape above the valley floor or stream.

uneven-aged management: Actions resulting in the creation of stands in which trees of different ages grow together. Cutting is usually regulated by specifying the number or proportion of trees of particular size to retain within each cut area, thereby maintaining a planned distribution of size classes.

ungulate: A hoofed mammal such as a deer, elk, horse, sheep, or cow.

valid existing rights: Any lease established (and valid) prior to a new authorization, change in land designation, or in regulation.

viable populations: A wildlife population of sufficient size to maintain its existence over time in spite of normal fluctuations in population levels.

visibility (air quality): A measurement of the ability to see and identify objects at different distances.

visitor day: Twelve visitor hours, which may be aggregated by one or more persons in single or multiple visits.

visitor use: Visitor use of a resource for inspiration, stimulation, solitude, relaxation, education, pleasure, or satisfaction.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO): A system of indicating the potential expectations of the visual resource by considering the frequency an area is viewed and the type of landscape. **Maximum Modification:** A Visual Quality Objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background. **Modification:** A Visual Quality Objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, utilize naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground. **Partial Retention:** A Visual Quality Objective which, in general, means man's activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape. **Preservation:** A Visual Quality Objective that provides for ecological change only. **Retention:** A Visual Quality Objective which, in general, means man's activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor.

visual resource: The visible physical features of a landscape (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that constitute the scenery of an area.

Visual Resource Inventory Classes – For BLM lands, scenic conditions and anticipated effects are measured using the Visual Resource Inventory Class (VRI).

Visual resource inventory classes are assigned through the inventory process. These are generally assigned based on a combination of scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Inventory classes are informational in nature and provide the basis for considering visual values in the RMP process. They do not establish management direction and should not be used as a basis for constraining or limiting surface disturbing activities.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The system by which BLM classifies and manages scenic values and visual quality of public lands. The system is based on research that has produced ways of assessing aesthetic qualities of the landscape in objective terms. After inventory and evaluation, lands are given relative visual ratings (see definition for Visual Resource Management Classes), which determine the amount of modification allowed for the basic elements of the landscape.

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes: Visual resource management classes define the degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based on the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective. Categories assigned to public lands based on scenic quality, sensitivity level, and distance zones. Each class has an objective, which prescribes the amount of change allowed in the characteristic landscape.

VRM Class I Objective: To preserve the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

VRM Class II Objective: To retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.

VRM Class III Objective: To partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate.

VRM Class IV Objective: To provide for management activities that requires major modification of the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high.

volatile organic compounds (VOCs): Volatile organic chemicals that produce vapors readily; at room temperature and normal atmospheric pressure. Volatile organic chemicals include gasoline, industrial chemicals such as benzene, solvents such as toluene and xylene, and tetrachloroethylene (perchloroethylene, the principal dry cleaning solvent).

water quality: The biological, physical, and chemical properties of water that make it suitable for specific uses.

watershed: The entire land area that contributes water to a particular drainage system or stream.

wetlands: those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, etc.

Wild and Scenic Study River: Rivers identified in Section 5 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for study as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

wild river: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Wild, Scenic, and/or Recreational (WSR): The term used in this Manual Section for what is traditionally shortened to “Wild and Scenic” rivers. Designated river segments are classified, i.e., wild, scenic, and/or recreational, but cannot overlap (from M-8351, BLM WSR Policy and Program).

wilderness: A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that:

- 1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable;
- 2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
- 3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and
- 4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

The definition contained in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

wilderness characteristics: Wilderness characteristics include size, the appearance of naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. They may also include ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. However Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 has been updated by IM-2003-195, dated June 20, 2003. Indicators of an area’s naturalness include the extent of landscape modifications; the presence of native vegetation communities; and the connectivity of habitats. Outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation may be experienced when the sights, sounds, and evidence of other people are rare or infrequent, in locations where visitors can be isolated, alone or secluded from others, where the use of the area is through non-motorized, non-mechanical means, and where no or minimal developed recreation facilities are encountered.

Wilderness Study Area (WSA): A designation made through the land use planning process of a roadless area found to have wilderness characteristics as described in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

wildfire: Unplanned human or naturally caused fires in wildlands.

wildland fire: Any fire, regardless of ignition source, that is burning outside of a prescribed fire and any fire burning on public lands or threatening public land resources, where no fire prescription standards have been prepared.

Wildland-urban Interface (WUI): The area adjacent to an at-risk community that is identified in the community wildfire protection plan, or if there is no community wildfire protection plan in place, the area 1/2 mile from the boundary.

winter range: A range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory deer and elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.