

Chapter 8

Glossary and Acronyms

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Glossary

Alluvial fan: a fan-shaped geological deposit consisting of material deposited by a moving stream and which radiates downslope from the point where the stream emerges from a narrow valley onto a plain.

Alluvium: sediments deposited by a river anywhere along its course; also called alluvial deposit.

Altithermal: the dry postglacial period extending from 7500 to 4000 years ago, during which time temperatures were believed to be distinctly higher than present temperatures. The term can also be used relating to any time period or climate characterized by high or rising temperatures.

Anadromous: fish that hatch rear in fresh water, migrate to the ocean (salt water) to grow and mature, and migrate back to fresh water to spawn and reproduce.

Aquatic exploitation: the fishing and/or gathering of food resources from water, in this case, from the Columbia River.

Armoring: to give protection using a surface layer of gravel in a river bed preventing erosion of the material below.

Average daily traffic: the total number of cars passing over a segment of roadway, in both directions, on a typical day. In this report, all average daily traffic volumes are two-way counts at the indicated locations.

Best management practices: a practice or combination of practices that is the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals.

Burn, The: a geographical area between Rock Creek and Chapman Creek in southeastern Washington characterized by an elevated plateau.

Cairn: a small grouping of rocks stacked in a linear or circular manner.

Combustion pollutants: gases or particles that come from burning materials.

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Compaction: the result of rolling, tamping, or use of heavy equipment on soil. Soils become hardened, difficult to cultivate, and impermeable to air and water.

Corridor: a strip of land forming a passageway for transportation or utility facilities.

Cryptogamic crust: a fragile layer: a thin crust made up of mosses, lichens, algae, and bacteria.

Cultural resources: a general term frequently used to refer to a wide range or archeological sites, historic structures, museum objects, and traditional cultural places.

Cumulative impacts: the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of who or what undertakes such actions.

Decibel (dB): a unit of sound measurement. In general, a sound doubles in loudness for every increase of ten decibels.

Diagnostic artifacts: an artifact that maintains a distinguishing mark or displays a certain characteristic that allows the object to be placed with some certainty into a chronological period.

Double-circuit towers: towers that can hold two transmission lines

Downcutting: when streams cut channels down into the rock, steepening valley walls. Downcutting typically produces narrow valleys.

Dry wash: a streambed that carries water only during and immediately following rainstorms.

Electrofishing: employing an electric current to attract or stun fish in order to take a census of a population.

Endangered species: (see Threatened and endangered species)

Eolian sands: sands that are the product of wind erosion.

Ephemeral stream: a channel that carries water only during and immediately following rainstorms. Sometimes referred to as a dry wash.

Ethnographic: dealing descriptively with specific cultures, especially those of nonliterate people or groups.

Ethnohistoric: pertains to the study of development of past cultures and lifeways prior to contact with European explorers.

Exceedence levels (L levels): refers to the A-weighted sound level that is exceeded for a specified percentage of the time during a specified period. Thus, L₁₀ refers to a particular sound level that is exceeded 10% of the time.

Fiberoptic cable: a fiberoptic technology using light pulses instead of radio or electrical signals to transmit messages.

Fish-bearing stream: any water that has fish presence, or is utilized by fish, even if for only one day a year.

Floodplain: that portion of a river valley adjacent to the stream channel that is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks during flood stage.

Ford: a shallow place in a stream, river, etc., where one can cross by wading or by riding on horseback, in an automobile, etc.

Fugitive dust: any solid particulate matter that becomes airborne, other than that emitted from an exhaust stack, directly or indirectly as a result of the activities of people.

Geologic unit: geologic units are physiographic units and rock lithology or coarse stratigraphy of exposed bedrock.

Glacial outburst flooding: a hydrological phenomenon that refers to the sudden release of water stored in glaciers.

Herbaceous: plants whose growing stems possess little or no woody tissue.

Herbicide: a chemical substance used to kill, slow, or suppress the growth of plants.

Housepits: is an aboriginally excavated house floor.

Hydroperiod: within wetlands, the hydroperiod is the duration of soil saturation or inundation.

Indigenous: existing naturally in a region, state, country, etc.

Insulators: bell-shaped devices that prevent the electricity from jumping from the conductors to the tower and going to the ground.

Irreversible commitment of resources: the use of nonrenewable resources such as minerals and petroleum-base fuels. Irrecoverable commitments of resources cause the lost production or use of renewable resources such as timber or rangeland.

Isolate finds: a singular artifact (e.g., projectile point, historic bottle, or 1922 Model T) or a grouping of artifacts that do not meet a specific density ratio to be classified as a site.

Liquefaction: the fluid-like behavior of soils during a seismic event.

Lithic: being made of stone.

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Lithosol: a group of shallow soils lacking well-defined horizons and composed of imperfectly weathered fragments of rock.

Loess: an unstratified usually buff to yellowish brown loamy deposit found in North America, Europe, and Asia and believed to be chiefly deposited by the wind.

Lomatium: within the project area there exist microenvironments that support different species of plant based primarily on local hydrology, geology, and sun exposure. Lomatium habitat can be considered a microenvironment within the greater sage vegetation zone. Lomatium, referred to in English by Sahaptin native speakers as “Indian celeries,” comes in many shapes and sizes. The plant produces edible sprouts, stems, and shoots and would be harvested seasonally. Lomatium habitat in the project area constitutes portions of talus slopes and rocky lowlands along streams and creeks.

Midden: the layer of soil which contains the byproducts of human activity as the result of the accumulation of these materials on their living surface. For prehistoric sites, a layer of soil that was stained to a dark color by the decomposition of organic refuse which also contained food bones, fragments of stone tools, charcoal, pieces of pottery, or other discarded materials. For historic sites, a similar layer of soil but with appropriate historic material remains often in a much thinner deposit.

Miocene epoch: a subdivision of geologic time within the Tertiary Period, between approximately 26 and 7 million years ago.

Mitigation measures: steps taken to lessen the impacts of proposed activities on a specific resource. Measures may include reducing the impact, avoiding it completely, or compensating for the impact.

Native plant/native species: species of plants, animals, or birds that originated in a given ecological area. Native plants or species are often best adapted to a given area.

Nonnative species: species that have migrated or have been imported to an ecological area. Nonnative plants or species may compete for space and nutrients with a (more desirable) native species.

Noxious weeds: plants that are injurious to public health, crops, livestock, land, or other property.

Ordinary high water mark (OHWM): an elevation that marks the boundary of a lake, marsh, or streambed. It is the highest level at which the water has remained long enough to leave its mark on the landscape. Typically, it is the point where the natural vegetation changes from predominantly aquatic to predominantly terrestrial.

Outage: interruption of the power flow such that electric facilities stop operating.

Perennial streams: a watercourse that flows throughout a majority of the year in a well-defined channel.

- Pithouse:** a semi-subterranean “earth-lodge” dwelling. Usually consisted of an earth-covered log framework roof over a circular to rectangular structure.
- Power circuit breakers:** a breaker is a switching device that can automatically interrupt power flow on a transmission line at the time of a fault, such as a lightning strike, tree limb falling on the line, or other unusual events. The breakers would be installed at the substation to redirect power as needed.
- Prime farmland:** land that has the best combination of physical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses.
- Privy:** an outdoor bathroom facility.
- Raptor:** a bird of prey.
- Right(s)-of-way:** an easement for a certain purpose over the land of another, such as a strip of land used for a road, electric transmission line, pipeline, and so on.
- Riparian areas:** vegetated ecosystems along a water body through which energy, materials, and water pass. Riparian areas characteristically have a high water table and are subject to periodic flooding and influence from the adjacent water body. These systems encompass wetlands, uplands, or some combination of these two land forms; they do not in all cases have all of the characteristics necessary for them to be classified as wetlands (Mitsch and Gosselink, 1986; Lowrance et al., 1988).
- Ruderal:** growing where the natural vegetation cover has been disturbed by humans.
- Scabland:** elevated land that is essentially flat-lying and covered with basalt and has only a thin soil cover, sparse vegetation, and usually deep, dry channels.
- Scoping:** an early opportunity for the public to tell a federal agency what issues they thing are important and should be considered in the environmental analysis of a proposed federal action.
- Sensitive species:** those plants and animals identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in populations or density and significant or predicted downward trend in habitat capability.
- Shrub-steppe:** is the largest natural grassland in North America. It extends from southeastern Washington and eastern Oregon, through Idaho, Nevada, and Utah, and into western Wyoming and Colorado. Shrub-steppe lands are covered with grasses and shrubs, the most common of which is sagebrush.
- Substation dead-end towers:** these are the towers within the substation where incoming or outgoing transmission lines end. Substation dead-ends are typically the tallest structure within the substation.

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Substation fence: a chain-link fence with barbed wire on top surrounds the substation for security and public safety.

Substation rock surfacing: a 3-inch layer of rock, selected for its insulating properties, is placed on the ground within the substation to protect operation and maintenance personnel from danger during substation electrical failures.

Switches: these devices are used to mechanically disconnect or isolate equipment. Switches are normally located on both sides of circuit breakers.

Threatened and endangered species [birds/animals/plants]: the Endangered Species Act provided a means to identify, list, and protect certain species whose low population numbers made them vulnerable to extinction. Endangered species are those species officially designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service that are in danger of extinction through all or a significant portion of their range; threatened species are those so designated that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future through all or a significant portion of their range. Both species are protected by Federal law.

Turbidity: the extent to which a body of water is muddy or cloudy with particles of sediment stirred up or suspended in it.

Wetlands: an area where the soil experiences anaerobic (no oxygen) characteristics because water inundates the area during the growing season. Indicators of a wetland includes types of plants, soil characteristics, and hydrology of the area.

Woody debris: materials left over from cutting or harvesting, such as limbs of branches of a tree. Woody debris may be placed in stream channels to slow and divert water flow and improve habitat for fish.

Acronyms

B.P.	Before Present
BLM	U.S. Bureau of Land Management
BPA	Bonneville Power Administration
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CRPP	Cultural Resources Protection Plan
dB	decibel
dBA	decibel A-weighted scale
DNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources

Ecology	Washington State Department of Ecology
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EFU	Exclusive Farm Use
EIS	environmental impact statement
ESU	Evolutionarily Significant Unit
GMA	Growth Management Act
GPS	Global Positioning System
ILS	Intermediate Life Support
kV	kilovolts
kV/m	kilovolts per meter
L levels	exceedence levels
L_{eq}	equivalent sound level
mG	milligauss
MW	megawatts
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
OAHP	Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
OAR	Oregon Administrative Rules
PSH	Primary State Highway
PUD	Public Utility District
RP3	Resource Protection Planning Process
SIC	Standard Industrial Classification
SSH	Secondary State Highway
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties
Umatilla Tribes	Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WARC	Washington Archaeological Research Center
Warm Springs Tribe	Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Oregon
WNHP	Washington Natural Heritage Program