

## **GLOSSARY**

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### **Access (road)**

Road used for passage to and along transmission line for purposes of construction and maintenance.

### **Aesthetic Quality**

A perception of the beauty of a natural or cultural landscape.

### **Affected Environment**

A geographic area and the associated natural, human, and cultural resources that could be influenced by a proposed action. Also, the chapter in an environmental impact statement that describes the existing condition of the environment.

### **Aggradation**

The deposition of sediment by running water, as in the channel of a stream.

### **Aggregate**

A group or mass of distinct things gathered into, or considered as, a total or a whole.

### **Aggregation**

The natural deposition of sediments in a river channel, gradually building up the slope or level of the riverbed.

### **Air Quality Classes**

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

### **Alignment**

The specific, surveyed route of a transmission line.

### **Alluvial Fan**

A gradually sloping mass of alluvium (sand, clay, etc., deposited by moving water) that widens out like a fan from the place where a stream issues from a narrow mountain valley upon a plain or broad valley.

### **Alluvium**

A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar consolidated material deposited during comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water in the bed of the stream, river, or floodplain, or as a cone or fan at the base of a mountain slope.

**Alternative (action)**

An option for meeting the stated need.

**Alternative (route)**

An optional path or direction for a transmission line.

**Ambient**

Characteristic of the atmosphere.

**Anasazi**

A prehistoric Native American group that practiced agriculture on the southern Colorado Plateau from roughly 200 BC to AD 1400.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM)**

Acres of forage required to sustain a cow, cow/calf, or equivalent for one month.

**Annual (ecology)**

A plant that completes its development in one year or one season and then dies.

**Anticline**

A sharply arched fold of stratified rock composed of strata that slope downward in opposite directions from the apex of the arch.

**Aquatic**

Growing or living in or near the water.

**Aquifer**

A stratum of permeable rock, sand, etc. that contains water. Water source for a well.

**Archaeology**

The science that investigates the history of peoples by the remains belonging to the earlier periods of their existence.

**Archival**

Pertaining to or contained in documents or records that preserve information about an event or individual.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

A BLM designation for an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life from natural hazards.

**Arroyo**

A dry gully, or a stream in a dry region.

**Artifact**

Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

**Assessment (environment)**

An evaluation of existing resources and potential impacts to them from a proposed act or change to the environment.

**Avifauna**

Birds of a specified region or time.

**Background**

That portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis here is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

**Base Load**

The minimum load of a utility over a given period of time.

**Batch Plant Site**

An area used for concrete mixing, temporary field office facility, material storage, and stations for equipment maintenance during construction of the transmission line. The area usually covers approximately two acres.

**Bennett Freeze**

In an effort to force the Navajo and Hopi to resolve their differences over land ownership, in 1966 Commissioner of Indian Affairs Robert L. Bennett issued a series of Federal administrative instructions restricting, or "freezing," development in certain areas of the Navajo Reservation without written consent of both tribes.

**Bundle**

Two or more conductors combined to form a phase.

**Butte**

A steep hill standing alone in a plain.

**Caliche**

Cemented deposit of secondary calcium carbonate found in layers or disseminated throughout the horizon of certain soils in arid to semiarid regions.

**Cambrian**

The earliest geologic period in the Paleozoic Era, spanning the time of 570 to 500 million years ago, and marked by a profusion of marine animals.

**Candidate Species**

A plant or animal species not yet officially listed as threatened or endangered, but which is undergoing status review by the FWS.

**Capability**

The ability to generate or transmit power.

**Capacity**

The maximum load that can be generated or transmitted by generating or transmission facilities for a given period of time without exceeding approved limits of temperature or stress.

**Centerline**

A line along the approximate middle of a transmission line right-of-way.

**Chapter**

Political districts within the Navajo Nation; there are 110 Chapters on the Navajo Nation.

**Circuit**

A complete closed conducting path over which electric current may flow.

**Conductor**

The wire cable strung between transmission line towers through which the electrical current flows.

**Construction, Operation and Maintenance Plan (COMP)**

A detailed plan depicting engineering, access, construction, environmental, and reclamation that is prepared prior to construction and operation of a proposed action.

**Contrast**

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

**Contrast Rating**

A method of determining the extent of visual impact for an existing or proposed activity that would modify any landscape feature (land and water form, vegetation and structures).

**Corona**

The discharge of energy from an energized transmission line that occurs when the voltage gradient exceeds the breakdown strength of air.

**Corridor**

A continuous strip of land of defined width, through which a linear utility route (or routes) passes.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

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

**Counterpoise**

Conductive cable buried in the ground at a transmission line tower to lower the resistance of the ground to conduct electricity (if resistance is greater than 10 ohms).

**Cretaceous**

The third and latest period of the Mesozoic Era, spanning in time from 136 to 65 million years ago, marked by the dying out of toothed birds and dinosaurs, and the development of early mammals.

**Cumulative Impact**

The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7).

**Dead-end Structure**

Transmission line tower structures that are more robust than tangent structures, used (1) to add longitudinal strength to the line, (2) at turning points (angles), (3) for added safety at crossings of other utilities such as other transmission lines and roads, and (4) to interrupt long distances of suspension structures that would otherwise provide more exposure to catastrophic line failure over long distance.

**Degradation**

The wearing down or away, and general lowering or reduction, of the earth's surface by the processes of weathering and erosion.

**Devonian**

A geologic period during the Paleozoic Era, spanning in time from 395 to 345 million years ago, marked by an abundance of fishes and the appearance of the first land plants and amphibians.

**Dip Slope**

The downward slope of geologic strata

**Distance Zone**

A visibility threshold distance where visual perception changes. The zones are usually defined as foreground, middleground and background.

**Drainage Basin**

The region or area bounded peripherally by a drainage divide or occupied by a river system.

**Ecology**

The relationship between living organisms and their environment.

**Ecosystem**

A complex system composed of a community of plants and animals, and that system's chemical and physical environment.

**Ecotone**

A transitional zone between two adjacent communities.

**Effects (also see Impacts)****Direct Effects**

Caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)).

**Indirect Effects**

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

**Electric and Magnetic Field**

A space or region within which magnetic forces are present around an electrical current.

**Electrostatic Field**

Pertaining to a space or region within which atmospheric electricity at rest interferes with radar, radio or television reception.

**Emergent (vegetation)**

Vegetation with all or part of their vegetative and reproductive parts above the water.

**Endangered Species**

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

**Endemic**

Plants or animals that are native to a particular region or country.

**Energy Conservation**

A means of saving energy.

**Environment**

The surrounding conditions, influences or forces that affect or modify an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**

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

**Environmental Impact Statement, Draft (DEIS)**

A detailed written statement as required by Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Environmental Impact Statement, Final (FEIS)**

The final version of the public document required by NEPA (see above).

**Eolian**

Sediment carried, formed, or deposited by the wind, as sand dunes.

**Ephemeral**

Present only during a portion of the year. Generally refers to water courses.

**Equestrian**

On horseback; anything having to do with horses.

**Erosion**

The group of processes whereby earth or rock material is loosened or dissolved and removed from any part of the earth's surface.

**Escarpment**

A steep slope or cliff formed by erosion or, less often, by faulting.

**Ethnography**

That aspect of cultural and social anthropology devoted to the first-hand description of particular cultures.

**Extirpation**

To destroy completely.

**Extraction**

The act of extracting or drawing a substance out of the earth (e.g. mining).

**Fault**

A fracture or fracture zone in the earth's surface along which there has been displacement of the sides relative to one another parallel to the fracture.

**Fauna**

The wildlife or animals of a specified region or time.

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)**

Agency primarily responsible for ensuring adequate energy supplies at just and reasonable rates and providing regulatory incentives for increased productivity, efficiency, and competition.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)**

Public Law 94-579 signed by the President on October 21, 1976. Established public land policy for management lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). FLPMA specifies several key directions for the BLM, notably (1) management on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield, (2) land use plans prepared to guide management actions, (3) public lands for the protection, development, and enhancement of resources, (4) public lands retained in Federal ownership, and (5) public participation used in reaching management decisions.

**Firm Energy**

Noninterruptible energy and power guaranteed by the supplier to be available at all times except for reasons of uncontrollable forces or continuity of service provisions.

**Floodplain**

That portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is built of sediments and is inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

**Foliage**

Leaves of a plant or tree.

**Foreground**

The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of one-half mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

**Foreground/Middleground**

The area visible from a travel route, residence or other use area to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

**Fossil**

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

**Generic Mitigation**

Measures, techniques, or practices applied/used generally to reduce adverse impacts on a non-specific basis.

**Genus**

One of the major taxonomic groups used to scientifically classify plants or animals: several closely related species, or one species, make up one genus, while several genera, or one genus, make up a family.

**Geologic Formations**

A rock unit distinguished from adjacent deposits by some common character, such as its composition, origin, or the type of fossil associated with the unit.

**Geology**

The science that relates to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes that the earth has undergone or is undergoing.

**Grazing Potential**

The potential of an area to support livestock grazing measured by the number of acres of land required to support one animal unit (AUM) for a month.

**Ground Wire**

Two wires installed along the transmission line at the top of the tower structures to protect the conductors from lightning strikes by transferring the energy from the lightning through the ground wires and structures into the ground below.

**Habitat**

The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

**Herbaceous**

Of, or having the nature of, an herb or herbs as distinguished from woody plants.

**Herbivorous**

Feeding chiefly on plants.

**Hogback**

A ridge with a sharp crest and abruptly sloping sides, often formed by the outcropping edge of steeply dipping rock strata.

**Holocene**

The second geologic epoch of the Quaternary period, commencing with the end of the last glacial period (the Pleistocene epoch). This era was marked by the establishment of modern climatic and environmental conditions, and spans from roughly 9,000 BC to present.

**Homogenous**

Having similarity in structure because of similarity in descent.

**Hydrologic System**

The distribution of surface and underground waters.

**Hydrology**

The science that relates to the water of the earth.

**Igneous Rock**

Rocks solidified from molten magma occurring as intrusives or extrusives (volcanics), at or below the surface of the earth.

**Impact**

A modification in the status of the environment brought about by a proposed action.

**Infrastructure**

The basic facilities on which a community depends, such as schools, power plants, or transportation and communication systems.

**Insectivorous**

Feeds chiefly on insects.

**Insulator**

A device that is resistant to electrical conduction used for isolating and supporting conductors.

**Intermittent**

A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

**Intrusive Igneous**

Molten magma forced into or between other rocks while in a molten state.

**Jurassic**

The second period of the Mesozoic Era, spanning in time from about 190 to 136 million years ago, characterized by the dominance of dinosaurs and the appearance of flying reptiles and birds.

**Jurisdictions**

The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

**Kilovolt**

1,000 volts (a volt is a measure of electrical potential difference which would cause a current of 1 ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm).

**Kilovolts Per Meter (kV/m)**

A unit measure of electric field strength.

**Kilowatt**

A unit of power equivalent to 1,000 watts.

**Landform**

A term used to describe the many types of land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

**Landscape Character Type**

The arrangement of a particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features and the four basic elements of form, line, color, and texture. These factors give the area a distinct quality that distinguishes it from immediate surroundings.

**Link**

A segment of a route alternative sharing common endpoints with adjacent links. Endpoints of a link are determined by the location of intersection with other segments (links) of other routes.

**Lithology**

The structure and composition of a rock formation, and the study of rocks with the unaided eye, or with little magnification.

**Loam**

A rich soil composed of clay, silt, sand, and some organic matter.

**Megawatts (MW)**

1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts (a watt is a unit of electrical power equal to 1/756th horsepower).

**Mesa**

An isolated, nearly level land mass, formed of nearly horizontal rocks, standing above the surrounding country and bounded with steep sides.

**Metamorphic**

A rock that has been formed through metamorphism. Metamorphism is the change in the mineralogical, structural, or textural composition of rocks under intense heat and pressure (e.g., turning limestone into marble).

**Microwave**

A very short electromagnetic wave.

**Migratory**

Birds, animals, or people that migrate, or move from one region or country to another.

**Milliampere (mA)**

Measure of electric current induced in conductive materials within an electric field.

**Milligauss (mG)**

A unit of measurement for magnetic fields.

**Mineral Resources**

Any inorganic or organic substance occurring naturally in the earth that has a consistent and distinctive set of physical properties. Examples of mineral resources include coal, nickel, gold, silver, and copper.

**Mississippian**

A period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning in time from about 345 to 320 million years ago.

**Mitigate**

To alleviate, reduce, or render less intense or severe.

**Monocline**

A rock fold or strata that slope in one direction.

**Mudstone**

A hardened sedimentary rock consisting of clay that is similar to shale, but does not occur in distinct, bonded layers.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**

Public Law 91-190. Establishes environmental policy for the nation. Among other items, NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider environmental values in decision-making processes.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**

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

**Native Vegetation**

Vegetation originating in a certain region or country.

***Neotoma***

A pack rat.

**Nonspecular Conductors**

Conductors that have been treated to reduce reflection, rendering the conductor less shiny and noticeable.

**One-hundred-year Flood**

A flood with a magnitude that may occur once every one hundred years. A 1-in-100 chance of a certain area being inundated during any year.

**Ozone**

A form of oxygen, O<sub>3</sub>, produced especially when an electric spark is passed through oxygen or air.

**Paleontology**

The science that deals with the life of past geological ages through the study of the fossil remains of organisms.

**Paleozoic**

The geologic era between the Precambrian and Mesozoic eras covering the time between 570 million and 225 million years ago. The era was characterized by the development of the first fishes, amphibians, reptiles, and land plants.

**Panoramic**

An unlimited view in all directions.

**Parent Material**

The rock formation that a soil originated from through chemical and physical processes.

**Particulates**

Minute, separate particles, such as dust or other air pollutants.

**Pennsylvanian**

A period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning from about 320 to 280 million years ago.

**Perennial**

Lasting, or active through the whole year. May refer to rivers, streams, or plants.

**Permeability**

The measure of the ease with which a fluid can diffuse through a particular porous material.

**Permian**

The seventh and last period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning from about 280 to 225 million years ago, characterized by increased reptile life and major mountain building in North America.

**Petroglyph**

A symbolic design or drawing of an animal or human pecked or carved into a rock or cliff face--generally prehistoric.

**Phase**

Consists of a bundle of two or more conductors.

**Physiographic Province**

An area characterized by distinctive topography, geologic structure, climate, drainage patterns, and other features and phenomena of nature.

**Pictograph**

A symbolic design or drawing of an animal or human painted onto a rock or cliff face—generally prehistoric.

**Pithouse**

A prehistoric dwelling partially constructed beneath the earth's surface.

**Plateau**

An elevated tract of relatively level land, such as a tableland or mesa.

**Playa**

The shallow central basin of a desert plain, in which water gathers after a rain and is evaporated.

**Pleistocene**

The first geologic epoch during the Quaternary period, spanning from 1.8 million years ago to about 9000 BC, characterized by extensive continental glaciation in the Northern Hemisphere.

**Policy**

A guiding principle upon which is based a specific decision or set of decisions.

**Power Withdrawal**

Land that was withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation for development of power-related facilities (e.g., hydropower plants, dams, reservoirs, substations).

**Precambrian**

The earliest geologic era covering all time from the formation of the earth and ending at the Paleozoic Era which began about 570 million years ago.

**Prey**

An animal hunted or killed for food by another animal.

**Primitive**

An area that is not developed, a pristine natural area.

**Protective Withdrawal**

Lands that have been withdrawn from availability under the various land and mining laws for administrative or protective reasons (e.g., recreation sites, office, or warehouse sites).

**Quaternary**

The geologic period following the Tertiary in the Cenozoic Era, beginning about 1.8 million years ago, composed by the Pleistocene and Holocene epochs, characterized by the evolution of Hominids into modern humans.

**Range**

A large, open area of land over which livestock can wander and graze.

**Raptor**

A bird of prey.

**Rare**

A plant or animal restricted in distribution. May be locally abundant in a limited area or few in number over a wide area.

**Reclamation**

Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced.

**Reconnaissance**

Preliminary examination or survey of a territory.

**Recontouring**

Returned a surface to or near to its original form through some type of action such as grading.

**Record of Decision (ROD)**

A document separate from, but associated with, an environmental impact statement that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the proposed action.

**Reference Centerline**

For purposes of assessing impacts and recommending mitigation, a centerline is assigned that may be slightly adjusted during engineering design.

**Region**

A large tract of land generally recognized as having similar character types and physiographic types.

**Residual Impact**

The impact of an action remaining after application of mitigation.

**Revegetation**

The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance such as reseeding.

**Right-of-way**

Strip of land acquired by legal means, over which the power line and access roads would pass.

**Riparian**

An aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem that is associated with bodies of water, such as streams, lakes, or wetlands, or is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. Riparian areas are usually characterized by dense vegetation and an abundance and diversity of wildlife.

**Route**

A transmission route is the general path of a transmission line and associated facilities.

**Sandstone**

A common sedimentary rock primarily composed of sand grains, mainly quartz, that are cemented together by other minerals.

**Scenic Quality Class**

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

**Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU)**

A portion of the landscape that displays primarily homogeneous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (landform, water, vegetation, and structures and modifications) which separate it from the surrounding landscape.

**Sediment**

Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, that is transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

**Seen Area**

That portion of the landscape which can be viewed from one or more observer positions. The extent or area that can be viewed is normally limited by landform, vegetation, structures or distance.

**Seismicity**

The likelihood of an area being subject to earthquakes. The phenomenon of earth movements.

**Seldom-seen Area**

Areas that are either beyond the furthest extent of the background zone (of the area or travel routes) or that are seen from areas or travel routes of low use volume.

**Selective Mitigation**

Measures or techniques developed to reduce adverse impact on a case-by-case, or selective, basis.

**Semi-arid**

A climate or region characterized by little yearly rainfall and by the growth of a number of short grasses and shrubs.

**Sensitivity**

The state of being readily affected by the actions of external influence.

**Series Compensation**

Used in the design of a transmission line to electrically increase the flowability of that transmission line. Series compensation provides increased voltage support to the system when the voltage degrades due to the increased loading of the transmission line. This compensating action improves the electrical characteristics of the transmission line, thereby increasing the amount of power flow on the transmission line.

**Shield Wire**

(see Ground wire)

**Significant (impact)**

"Significant" has been used in this document to describe any impact that would cause a substantial adverse change or stress to one or more environmental resources. In general, all potential high impacts were considered to be "significant."

**Simulations**

The use of a computer to calculate the effect of a given physical process.

**Site**

In archaeology, any locale showing evidence of human activity.

**Species**

A group of individuals of common ancestry that closely resemble each other structurally and physiologically, and in nature interbreed producing fertile offspring.

**Spring**

A place where ground water flows naturally onto the land surface; often the source of a stream.

**Strata**

Plural of stratum—horizontal layer of sedimentary rock.

**Study Area**

A given geographical area delineated for specific research.

**Subspecies**

Any natural subdivision of a species that exhibits small, but persistent morphological variations from other subdivisions of the same species living in different geographical regions or times.

**Substation**

An assemblage of equipment, enclosed by fence, occurring at points along a transmission line. A facility in an electrical transmission system with the capability to route and control electrical power, and to transform power to a higher or lower voltage. Equipment includes transformers, circuit breakers, and other equipment for switching, changing, or regulating the voltage of electricity.

**Substrates**

Sediment that lies beneath the surface of the earth.

**Talus**

A pile of rock debris at the foot of a cliff or steep slope.

**Tangent Structure**

Typical transmission line structure. Can be one of several types, placed four to five per mile in linear position.

**Taxon**

A taxonomic unit or family, as a species or family.

**Taxonomic**

A system of arranging animals and plants into natural, related groups based on some factor common to each, such as structure or biochemistry.

**Technical Report**

Documentation of detailed studies summarized in the DEIS.

**Terminal**

(see Substation)

**Tertiary**

The first period in the Cenozoic Era, spanning from 65 to 1.8 million years ago.

**Threatened Species (T or LT)**

Any species likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of its range.

**Transition Zone**

The area between two discrete environmental areas, and thus containing elements of each. For example, the transition zone between an upland piñon forest and a lowland desert scrub environment.

**Triassic**

The first period in the Mesozoic Era, spanning from 225 to 190 million years ago and following the Permian Period of the Paleozoic Era; characterized by the appearance of many reptiles, including the dinosaurs.

**Tributary**

A stream or river that flows into a larger stream or river.

**Uranium**

A very hard, heavy, silvery, metallic, chemical element that is crucial to the research and development of atomic energy.

**Use Volume**

The total volume of visitor use that each segment of a travel route or use area receives.

**Utility Corridor**

A route used by a utility for pipelines, cables, and transmission lines.

**Vanadium**

A bright white soft ductile metallic element found in several minerals such as vanadinite and carnotile.

**Variety Class**

A designation (A, B, or C) assigned to a homogeneous area of the landscape to indicate the visual importance or quality relative to other landscape areas within the same physiographic province (FWS designation).

**Vegetation Communities**

Species of plants that commonly live together in the same region or ecotone.

**Viewshed**

Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance and existing cultural modifications.

**Visual Management Objectives**

The term used in this study to generally define VRM (BLM) or VQO classes (Forest Service).

**Visual Management System**

System of land management based upon meeting visual resource goals (Forest Service).

**Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes**

Classification of landscapes according to the kinds of structures and changes that are acceptable to meet established visual goals (BLM).

**Visual Sensitivity Levels**

The index of the relative degree of user interest in scenic quality and concern for existing or proposed changes in the landscape features of that area in relation to other areas in the study area.

**Visual Quality Objectives**

Classification of landscape areas according to the types of structures and changes that are acceptable to meet established visual goals (Forest Service designation).

**Volcanic Field**

A landscape dominated by features formed by volcanic activity, such as cinder cones, cinder covered plains, lava flows, and active or relict volcanoes.

**Volts Per Meter (v/m)**

A unit of measurement of an electric field.

**Waters of the United States**

All waters that are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to waters of the United States;

and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

**Wetlands**

Those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

**Wheeling**

The use of the transmission facilities of one system to transmit power of and for another system. As applied to Western, the transmission of large blocks of electric power of the Western system from non-Federal hydro- and/or thermal-generating plants to points of use by utilities owning or purchasing the output of such plants.