

APPENDIX B

GLOSSARY , ACRONYMS, AND ABBREVIATIONS

Alluvial Aquifer – Aquifer within unconsolidated or poorly consolidated gravel sands, and clays, deposited by streams and rivers on riverbeds, floodplains, and alluvial fans.

Alternating Current – Electric current that reverses direction, usually many times per second.

Ambient – The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which changes or impacts are measured.

Ampere – The unit of measurement of electric current. It is proportional to the quantity of electrons flowing past a given point on a conductor in one second.

Antiquities – A general term for archaeological or paleontological resources which are at least 100 years of age and which tangibly represent or have the potential to yield information on historical or prehistoric cultures, or extinct plants and animals.

Avoidance Area – An environmentally sensitive area designed by any federal, state, or local agency. Rights-of-way would be granted only in cases where there is a prevailing need or no practical alternative exists, and then only with provisions to protect the sensitive resources.

Background – The viewing area of a distance zone that lies beyond the foreground-middleground. Usually from a minimum of 3 to 5 miles to a maximum of about 125 miles from a travel; route, use area, or other observer position. Atmospheric conditions in some areas may limit the maximum to about 8 miles or increase it beyond 15 miles.

Big Game – Large species of wildlife which are managed for hunting.

Biotic – Pertaining to living organisms.

Bus – An electrical conductor that serves as a common connection for two or more electrical circuits.

Capability – The maximum load which a generating unit station transmission system or other electrical apparatus can carry under special conditions for a given period of time without exceeding approved limits of temperature and stress.

Capacitor – A device that stores electrical charges and can be used to maintain voltage levels in power lines and improve electrical system efficiency.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations, the compilation of federal regulations adopted by federal agencies through a rule-making process.

Characteristic Landscape – The established landscape within an area being viewed. The term does not necessarily mean a naturalistic character, but may refer to features of the cultural landscape, such as a farming community, an urban landscape, or other landscape that has an identifiable character.

Circuit – A conductor or system or conductors through which an electrical current is intended to flow.

Climatology – Science of climate and its causes.

Community (plant community) – An assembly of plants living together, reflecting no particular ecological status.

Community Types (vegetation) – A group of plants living in a specific region under relatively similar conditions.

Conductive Shielding – A housing, screen, or other object, usually conducting, that substantially reduces the effects of electric or magnetic fields on its one side and upon devices or circuits on its other side.

Conductor – Any material which is capable of an electrical current.

Conglomerate – A sedimentary rock comprised of an unstratified mixture or stratified layers of cobbles, gravel, and sand.

Coniferous Forest – A forest dominated by cone-bearing, usually evergreen, trees.

Contrast – The effect of striking a difference in the form, line, color, or texture of the landscape features within the area being viewed.

Cretaceous – The period of geologic time lasting from 144 to 66 million years before present which is also known as the “age of dinosaurs”.

Critical Habitat – Sensitive use areas that are of limited abundance and/or possess unique qualities, thereby constituting irreplaceable, critically necessary habitat.

Cultural Resources – The archaeological and historical remains of human occupation or use. Includes and manufactured objects, such as tools or buildings. May also include objects, sites, or geological/geographical locations significant to Native Americans.

Cultural Significance – Is embodied in those qualities of prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.4), The application of these criteria is explained in the National Register Bulletin 15, distributed by the National Park Service.

Cumulative Effects – As defined by 40 CFR 1508.7, cumulative effects are the impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative affects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

Current – The movement of electricity through a conductor.

dBA – The sound pressure levels in decibels measured with a frequency weighting network corresponding to the A-scale on a standard sound level meter, The A-scale tends to suppress lower frequencies, e.g., below 1,000Hz.

Decibels (dBA) – Units for describing amplitude of sound frequencies to which the human ear is sensitive.

Deciduous – Trees or shrubs which lose their leaves each year during a cold or dry season.

Deciduous Forest – a forest characterized by tree and shrubs which lose their leaves each year during a cold or dry season.

Demographic – Pertaining to the study of human population characteristics including size, growth rates, density, distribution, migration, birth rates, and mortality rates.

Direct Current – Electricity that flows through a conductor in a single direction.

Direct Effects – As defined by 40 CFR 1508.9, these are effects which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place as the action. Synonymous with direct impacts.

Direct Impact Area – An area analyzed for the effects of an action that would occur at the same place in time.

Dispersed Recreation – A general term referring to recreation use outside then developed recreation site; this includes activities such as scenic driving, hunting, backpacking, and recreation in primitive environments.

Disturbance – An event that changes the local environment by removing organisms or opening up an area, facilitating colonization by new, often different organisms.

Disturbed Areas – Area where natural vegetation and soils have been removed or disrupted.

Diversity – The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a Land and Resource Management Plan.

Double-circuit – A transmission line consisting of two systems of conductors (or wires) through which electric current flows.

Drainage – Natural channel through which water flows sometime of the year. Natural and artificial means for effecting discharge of water as by a system of surface and subsurface passages.

Earthquake – Sudden movement of earth’s crust resulting from faulting, volcanism, or other mechanisms.

Effects – Environmental consequences as a result of a proposed or alternative action. Included are direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, and indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance but which are still reasonable foreseeable. Also referred to as impacts.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs) – Invisible lines of force, produce by voltage and current, that surround any electrical device or electrical power line.

Endangered Species – Any species or animal or plant which is in danger of extinction throughout all or significant portions of its range and has been designated “endangered” in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior. Disturbance of the habitat or endangered species is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Environment – The aggregate of physical, biological, economic, and social factors affecting organisms in an area.

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 Assessment (EA) – A concise public document which serves to (a) Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an EIS or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI); (b) Aid an agency’s compliance with NEPA when no EIS is necessary; and (c) Facilitate preparation of an EIS when necessary.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – 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.

Ephemeral Drainage – A drainage area or a stream that has no base flow. Water flows for a short time each year but only in direct response to rainfall or snow melt events.

Erosion – Detachment or movement of soils 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 man, animals, or natural catastrophes. Escarpment – An island cliff or steep slope, formed by the erosion of inclined strata of hard rocks, or possibly as a direct result of a fault.

Fault – A fracture in bedrock along which there has been vertical and/or horizontal movement caused by differential forces in the earth’s crust.

Faulting – Relative displacement of adjacent bedrock along a fracture.

Fisheries – Streams and lakes used for fishing.

Fisheries Habitat – Streams, lakes, and reservoirs that support fish.

Floodplain – That Portion of a river valley, adjacent to the channel, which is built of recently deposited sediments and is covered with water when the river overflows its banks at flood stages.

Forage – Vegetation used for food by wildlife, particularly big game wildlife and domestic livestock.

Forb – A broad-leaved flowering plant.

Foreground-Middleground – The area visible from a travel route, use area, or other observer position to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where the texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape, and vegetation is apparent only in pattern or outline.

Fugitive Dust – Dust particles suspended randomly in the air from road travel, excavation, and construction-related operations.

Game Species – Animals commonly hunted for food or sport.

Habitat – The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows; includes all biotic, climatic, and soil conditions, or other environmental influences affecting living organisms.

Habitat Diversity – The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within a specific area.

Habitat Fragmentation – The process by which habitats are increasingly subdivided into smaller units, resulting in their increased isolation as well as loss of total habitat area.

Habitat Type – The aggregate of all areas that support or can support the same primary vegetation at climax.

Herbaceous – The plant strata which contains soft, not woody stemmed plants that die to the ground in winter.

Indirect Effects – As defined by 40 CFR 1508.8, these are effects which are caused by the action but occur in later in time or are removed in distance from the action, but are still reasonable foreseeable. Synonymous with indirect impacts.

Intermittent Stream – A stream which flow only at certain times of the year when it receives water from alluvial ground water, springs, or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas.

Irretrievable – Applies to the loss of production, harvest, or use of natural resources. For example, some or all of the timber production from an area is lost irretrievable while an area is serving as a winter sports site. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible. If the use changes, it is possible to resume timber production.

Irreversible – Applies primarily to the use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors that are renewable only over long time spans, such as soil productivity and aspen regeneration. Irreversible also includes loss of future options.

Key Observation Point (KOP) – Critical viewpoints that are usually along commonly traveled routes or at other likely observation points.

Kilovolt (kV) – 1,000 volts.

Landscape Character – The arrangement of particular landscape as formed by the variety and intensity of the landscape features as defined as the four basic elements (form, line, color, and texture). These factors give the area a distinctive quality that distinguishes it from its immediate surroundings.

Landslide – A perceptible downhill sliding or falling of a mass of soil and rock lubricated by moisture or snow.

Land Use – Land uses determined for a given area that establishes the types of activities allowed (e.g., mining, agriculture, residential, and industrial).

Load – The amount of electric power drawn at a specific time from an electric system or the total power drawn from the system.

Long-Term Effects – Long-term effects are effects that would remain following completion of the project.

Losses – The general term applied to energy and power lost in the operation of an electric system. Losses occur principally as energy transformations from kilowatt hours to waste heat in electrical conductors and apparatus.

Mesic – A habitat characterized by moderate moisture and temperature conditions and by a profusion of plant life.

Milligauss – A measurement of electrical current (mG).

Mitigate – To lessen the severity of an impact to a resource.

Mitigation – Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Modified Mercalli Intensity Scale – A qualitative measurement scale describing the intensity (degree of shaking) felt by people, structures, and the ground during an earthquake. Intensities range from I (felt by few, if any, people) to XII (damage total).

Monitor – To systematically and repeatedly watch, observe, or measure environmental conditions in order to track changes.

National Register of Historic Places – A list, maintained by the National Park Service, of areas which have been designated as being of historical significance.

Native Species – Plants that originated in the area in which they are found, i.e., they naturally occur in the area.

NEPA – the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This is the national charter for protection of the environment. NEPA establishes policy, sets goals, and provides means for carrying out the policy. Regulations 40 CFR 1500-1508 implement the act.

Noxious Weeds – An alien, introduced, or exotic undesirable species that is aggressive and overly competitive with more desirable native species.

Ozone – a molecule containing three oxygen atom (O₃) produced by passage of an electrical spark through air or oxygen.

Paleontology – The science which deals with the history and evolution of life on earth.

Peak Flow – The greatest flow attained during melting of winter snow pack or during a large precipitation event.

Perennial – A plant whose life cycle lasts longer than two years. The tops of herbaceous perennials die down at the end of the growing season, buds, roots, and underground portions persist.

Perennial Stream – A stream or each of a stream that flow throughout the year.

Quaternary – Period of earth's history from two million years ago to the present.

Range – Land producing native forage for animal consumption and lands that are revegetated naturally or artificially to provide forage cover that is managed like native vegetation, which are amenable to certain range management principles or practices.

Raptor – A bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks which preys on living animals (e.g., eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls).

Reclamation – The process of restoring disturbed areas using any of several methods, such as recontouring, spreading topsoil or growth medium, seeding, and planting.

Recontouring – Restoration of the natural topographic contours by reclamation measures, particularly in reference to roads.

Reliability – Electric system reliability consists of two components – adequacy and security. Adequacy is the ability of the electric system to supply the total electrical demand and energy requirements of the customers at all times, taking into account scheduled and unscheduled outages. Security is the ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system facilities.

Riparian – Land areas which are directly influenced by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing water influence. Stream banks, borders of lakes, and marshes, are typical riparian areas.

Roosting – To rest or sleep in a roost. A bird will typically use the same roost over an extended period of time.

Runoff – Precipitation that is not retained on the site where it falls, is not absorbed by the soil, and that may appear in surface streams.

Scatter (archaeological) – Random evidence of prior disturbance that is distributed about an area rather than concentrated in a single location.

Scoping – Procedures by which agencies 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 the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed).

Sediment – Soil or rock particles that have been transported to stream channels or other bodies of water. Sediment input comes from natural sources, such as soil erosion and rock weathering, as well as from agricultural or construction practices.

Sediment Load - The amount of sediment (sand, silt and fine particles) carried by a stream or river.

Seismic – Pertaining to or produced by earthquakes.

Sensitive Species – Those species of plants or animals that have appeared in the Federal register as proposed for classification and are under consideration for official listing as endangered or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, including species that are on an official state list and recognized as needing special management to prevent their being placed on federal or state lists.

Short-Term Impacts – Short-term impacts are defined as those effects that would not last longer than the life of the project.

Significant – As used in NEPA, determination of significance 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).

Single-circuit – A transmission line consisting of one system of conductors (or wires) through which electric current flow.

Stormwater Runoff – Overland runoff from snowmelt or a precipitation event.

Substation – An assemblage of equipment for the purpose of switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electricity.

Threatened Species – Any species of animal or plant which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or significant portions of its range, as designated in the Federal Register by the Secretary of Interior as a threatened species. Disturbance of the habitat of threatened species is prohibited by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Volt – The unit of electrical pressure.

Voltage – A measure of the force which transmits electricity.

Waters of the United States – A jurisdictional term, from Section 4040 of the Clean Water Act referring to water bodies such as lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams) or wetlands, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

Watershed – All the land that drains surface water to a given stream above a designated point (usually the mouth of the stream); also called a stream drainage or drainage basin.

Wetlands – Areas that are inundated by surface or ground water with a frequency sufficient to support and under normal circumstances does or would support a prevalence of vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

Winter Range – The place where migratory (and sometimes nonmigratory) animals congregate during the winter season.