

## Appendix J - Glossary

**Abiotic:** Nonliving, not associated with life. Although the term does refer to nonliving, it may still be associated with life.

**Access:** The opportunity to approach, enter, and make use of public or private land.

**Acre-Foot:** The amount of water covering an area of one acre to a depth of one foot (43,560 cubic feet or 325,851 gallons).

**Activity:** A measure, course of action, or treatment that is undertaken to directly or indirectly produce, enhance, or maintain forest and rangeland outputs or achieve administrative or environmental quality objectives.

**Activity Area:** An area of land impacted by a management activity or activities. An activity area can range from a few acres to an entire watershed depending on the type of monitoring being conducted.

**Activity Fuels:** Debris generated by an activity that increases fire potential, such as firewood gathering, pre-commercial thinning, timber harvesting, and road construction.

**Adaptive Management:** A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, evaluating, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy.

**Adaptation:** A genetically determined characteristic that enhances an organism's chances for survival and reproduction.

**Adjustment:** Change in animal numbers, seasons of use, kinds or classes of animals, or management practices as warranted by specific conditions.

**Administrative Facilities:** Those facilities, such as a ranger station or work center, that are used by the Forest Service in the management of a national forest or national grassland.

**Administrative Site:** Work center or other area reserved for administrative purposes.

**Administrative Unit:** All the National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, for which one forest supervisor is responsible.

**Administrative Use:** Use authorized by Forest Service officials to complete management functions and activities.

**Adverse Determinations:** Please refer to the definition as found in the Biological Assessment and Evaluation appendix.

**Adverse Effects (Heritage Resources):** Any effect on a heritage resource that would be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Aesthetics:** Pertaining to the quality of human perception of natural beauty (including sight, sound, smell, touch, taste, and movement).

**Afforestation:** To establish forest cover on a nonforested land type, such as a grassland.

**Affected Environment:** The biological and physical environment that will or may be changed by actions proposed and the relationship of people to that environment.

**Agricultural Commodity:** A product of agriculture.

**Air Pollution:** Any substance or energy (heat, light, noise, etc.) that alters the state of the air from what would naturally occur.

**Airshed:** A geographical area which, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, routinely shares the same air mass.

**Air-Dry Weight:** The weight of a substance after it has been allowed to dry to equilibrium with the atmosphere.

**Alienated Land:** Land of one ownership enclosed within boundaries of another ownership. Often refers to privately owned land within the boundaries of public land.

**All-weather Road:** A road capable of being utilized during all weather conditions with only minor or short-term restrictions.

**Allocation:** The assignment of a land area to a particular use or uses to achieve management goals and objectives.

**Allotment:** A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under a range allotment management plan. It is the basic land unit used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

**Allotment Management Plan (AMP):** The document containing the action program needed to manage the range resource for livestock utilization, and possibly wildlife utilization, while considering the soil, watershed, wildlife, recreation, timber, and other resources in a range allotment.

**Allowable Use:**

1. The degree of utilization considered desirable and attainable on various parts of a ranch or allotment considering the present nature and condition of the resource, management objectives, and levels of management.
2. The amount of forage planned to be used to accelerate range improvement.

**Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ):** The quantity of timber that may be sold from the area of suitable land covered by the Forest Plan for a time period specified by the plan. This quantity is usually expressed on an annual basis as the "average annual allowable sale quantity."

**Alluvium:** Sediments deposited by streams, rivers, and moving waters.

**Alternative:** A combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve a desired management emphasis as expressed in goals and objectives. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision making. An alternative need not substitute for another in all respects.

**Amenity Values:** Resource use for which market values (or proxy values) are not or cannot be established.

**American Indian:** A member of any tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community of Indians which is recognized by the United States.

**Analysis Area:** One or more capability areas combined for the purpose of analysis in formulating alternatives and establishing various impacts and effects.

**Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS):** A determination of the ability of a planning area to supply goods and services in response to society's demands for those goods and services.

**Animal-Month:** A month's tenure upon the rangeland by one animal. Must specify kind and class of animal. **Note:** This term is **not** synonymous with animal unit month (AUM).

**Animal-Unit:** Considered to be a mature 1,000-pound cow or the equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds dry matter per day.

**Animal Unit Month (AUM):** The amount of feed or forage required by an animal-unit for one month.

**Annual Plant:** A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in one year or less.

**Application (Oil and Gas):** A written request, petition, or offer to lease lands for the purpose of oil and gas exploration and/or the right of extraction.

**Application for Permit to Drill (APD):** An application to drill a well, submitted by a lessee or operator to the BLM. The APD consists of a Drilling Plan, reviewed by the BLM and a Surface Use Plan of Operation (SUPO), reviewed by the Forest Service. The Drilling Plan discusses downhole drilling specifications and procedures. The Surface Use Plan of Operation examines surface uses, including access roads, well-site layout, cut/fill diagrams, reclamation procedures, production facility locations, etc. The approved APD is a contract between the operator and the federal government and cannot be changed or modified unless authorized by the BLM and Forest Service.

**Aquifer:** A geologic formation capable of transmitting water through its pores at a rate sufficient for water-supply purposes. The term "water-bearing" is sometimes used synonymously with aquifer when a stratum furnishes water for a specific use. Aquifers are usually saturated sands, gravel, fractures, caverns, or vesicular rock (rock with cavities).

**Aquatic Ecosystem:** An ecosystem (biological and physical components and their interactions) in which water is the principal medium. Examples include wetlands, streams, reservoirs, and areas with plants or animals characteristic of either permanently or seasonally inundated soils.

**Area of Potential Effects:** The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.

**Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:** Areas within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes or to protect life from natural hazards.

**Archeological Resource:** Any physical remains of past human life or activities.

**Arterial Road:** (See "Road Functional Classification.")

**Aspect:**

1. The visual first impression of vegetation or a landscape at a particular time or as seen from a specific point.
2. The predominant direction of slope of the land.
3. The seasonal changes in the appearance of vegetation.

**Authorized Forest Officer:** The Forest Service employee delegated the authority to perform specific duties: generally a regional forester, forest supervisor, district ranger, or minerals staff officer.

**Available Forage:** That portion of the forage production that is accessible for use by a specified kind or class of grazing animal.

**Available Lands:** Those portions of the national forest or national grassland not administratively excluded from timber harvest or livestock grazing.

**Available Lands (Oil and Gas):** Any lands subject to oil and gas leasing under the Minerals Leasing Act.

**Availability (Oil and Gas):** Availability of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, for oil and gas leasing. Availability refers to lands that have not been formally prohibited from oil and gas leasing activities.

**Background:** (See "Distance Zones.")

**Badlands:** A landtype that consists mainly of exposed siltstone or silty and clay shale. Vegetation is limited to nonexistent.

**Bank Stability Criteria:** Factors used in determining bank stability. Such factors may include vegetation density and vigor, evidence of past or current gulying or slumping, presence of objects that may deflect water into the banks, presence and size of rocks, and distance to break in slope.

**Bankhead Jones Farm Tenant Act:** Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a program of land conservation and land utilization in order to correct maladjustments in land use and to assist in reforestation, preserving natural resources, controlling soil erosion, protecting fish and wildlife, developing and protecting recreational facilities, mitigating floods, preventing impairment of dams and reservoirs, conserving surface and subsurface moisture, protecting watersheds of navigable streams, and protecting the public lands, health, safety, and welfare. The act does not authorize the construction of industrial parks or the establishment of industrial or commercial enterprises. The national grasslands were purchased under this authority.

**Barriers (Soils and Watershed):** Temporary structures used to control erosion, such as silt fences, straw bales, rock check dams, and felled logs.

**Basal Area:** The cross-sectional area of the stem or stems of a plant or of all plants in a stand. Herbaceous and small woody plants are measured at or near the ground level. Larger woody plants are measured at breast or other designated height.

**Base Property:** Those lands in a ranching enterprise that are owned and required to hold a term grazing permit.

**Bedload (Watershed and Fisheries):** Sand, silt and gravel, or soil and rock debris rolled along the bottom of a stream by the moving water. The particles of this material have a density or grain size that prevents movement far above or for a long distance out of contact with the stream bed under natural flow conditions.

**Benchmark:** Reference points that define the bounds within which feasible management alternatives can be developed. Benchmarks may be defined by resource output or economic measures.

**Benefit-Cost Ratio:** Measure of economic efficiency, computed by dividing the total discounted primary benefits by the total discounted economic costs.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Land management methods, measures or practices intended to minimize or reduce water pollution as well as practices that result in healthy ecosystems. Usually, BMPs are applied as a system of practices rather than a single practice. BMPs are selected based on site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility.

**Bentonite:** A natural clay deposit that has high swelling capabilities when saturated. Use to seal earthen stockponds.

**Biennial Plant:** A plant that lives for two years, usually flowering and fruiting only in the second year and then dying.

**Big Game:** Certain wildlife that may be hunted for sport under state laws and regulations, including elk, pronghorn antelope, mule and white-tail deer, turkey, and bighorn sheep.

**Big Game Security:** Protection that allows an animal to remain in a defined area despite increases in stress and disturbance associated with hunting seasons or other human activities.

**Biocide:** A chemical toxin that is lethal to living organism.

**Biogeography:** The study of the geographic distribution of plants and animals.

**Biological Control Agents:** Natural organisms, such as animals, insects, diseases, parasites and predators, that reduce pest populations of insects, diseases, and noxious weeds.

**Biological Control Methods:** Use of natural organisms, such as insects, diseases, parasites, and predators to reduce pest populations of insects or weeds or to control diseases. Methods may include importation and release, conservation of native natural-enemy species, and augmentation (supplementation through rearing and release or genetic improvement) of biological control agents.

**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 their environments.

**Biological Evaluation:** A review of all Forest Service planned, funded, executed, or permitted programs and activities for possible effects on endangered, threatened, proposed, or sensitive species. A biological evaluation may be used or modified to satisfy consultation requirements for biological assessments of construction projects requiring an environmental impact statement (See FSM 2600).

**Biological Resource:** Plants and animals of direct or indirect value to human beings.

**Biomass:** The total amount of living plants and animals above and below ground in an area at a given time.

**Biome:** A major biotic unit consisting of plant and animal communities having similarities in form and environmental conditions, but not including the abiotic portion of the environment.

**Bioregion:** A territory defined by a combination of biological, social, and geographic criteria rather than geopolitical considerations. Generally, a system of related, interconnected ecosystems.

**Biosphere:** That portion of the earth and atmosphere in which life can exist.

**Biota:** All the species of plants and animals occurring within an area or region.

**Bird Ladders:** A floating platform placed in water tanks and troughs to provide a means for birds and small animals to drink and escape from the water should they fall in.

**Blowout:**

1. An excavation in areas of loose soil, usually sand, produced by wind.
2. A breakthrough or rupture of a soil surface attributable to hydraulic pressure, usually associated with sand boils.

**Board Foot:** A unit of timber measurement equaling the amount of wood contained in a board 1 inch thick, 12 inches long, and 12 inches wide.

**Botanical Area:** A unit of land that contains plant specimens, plant groups, or plant communities that are significant because of their form, color, occurrence, habitat, location, life history, arrangement, ecology, rarity, or other feature.

**Broadcast Burning:** A fire ignited under specific conditions (prescriptions) and within established boundaries to achieve some land management objective.

**Broadcast Seeding:** Process of scattering seed on the surface of the soil prior to natural or artificial means of covering the seed with soil.

**Broadcast Treatments (Pest Management):** The uniform application of pesticide over an entire area.

**Browse:** Twigs, leaves, and young shoots of trees and shrubs upon which animals feed: in particular, those shrubs that are utilized by some livestock and big game animals for food.

**BTU:** British Thermal Unit. The quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit at or near its maximum density.

**Buck-Fence:** A fence constructed of wooden poles fastened horizontally to wooden cross-members. Such fences withstand heavy snows in mountainous regions and eliminate the need for digging holes for posts in rocky terrain. Also called buck-pole fence.

**Buffalo Wallow:** A small natural depression of prairie occasionally containing standing water and having vegetation different from that of the surrounding area.

**Buffer Zone:** An area on the edge of protected areas with restrictive land-use controls allowing only activities compatible with protection of the core area, such as research, environmental education, recreation, and tourism.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM):** An agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior.

**Butte:** An isolated hill with relatively steep sides. A mesa.

**Cabling:** The use of a large cable pulled between two large crawler tractors to pull down or uproot brush. Also called chaining.

**Cactus:** A spiny, succulent plant of the *Cactaceae* family.

**Candidate Species:** Forest Service Manual direction defines candidate species as those plant or animal species that, in the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may become endangered or threatened. There are several categories of candidate species. Category 2 species are those which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service feels that proposing to list the species as endangered or threatened may be appropriate, but for which conclusive data on biological vulnerability and threats are not currently available to support listing. These species have no protection afforded them under the Endangered Species Act prior to federal designation as threatened, endangered, or proposed for listing.

**Capability Area:** A geographic delineation used to describe characteristics of the land and resources in integrated Forest and Grassland planning. Capability areas may be synonymous with ecological land units, ecosystems, or land response units.

**Capital Investment:** Investments in facilities, such as roads and structures, with specially appropriated funds.

**Captive Breeding:** The propagation of animals outside their natural habitat, in which humans choose the individuals which will make up the population, as well as their mates within that population.

**Carrying Capacity (Wildlife and Livestock Grazing):** The maximum number of animals that can be supported in a given environment without deteriorating that environment.

**Carrying Capacity:** The maximum possible stocking rate that is consistent with maintaining or improving vegetation or related resources. It may vary from year to year in the same area due to fluctuating forage production. Also called grazing capacity.

**Casual Use:** Activities occurring by chance or taking place at irregular intervals without ceremony or formality.

**Cattleguard:** A device or structure, located where a fenceline crosses roads or railroads, that allows unimpeded vehicular traffic but restricts livestock crossings.

**Cavity:** A hollow in a tree that is used by birds or mammals for roosting and reproduction.

**CFR:** Code of Federal Regulations.

**Channel (Watershed):** A passage, either naturally or artificially created, that periodically or continuously contains moving water or that forms a connecting link between two bodies of water. River, creek, run, branch, and tributary are some of the terms used to describe natural channels. Natural channels may be single or braided. Canal and floodway are some of the terms used to describe artificial channels.

**Channel Capacity:** The ability of the channel flow to carry sediment downstream and through the system so that no net aggradation (buildup) of sediment in the channel results.

**Channel Classification Criteria:** Criteria used to determine stream type. For example, the Rosgen Classification System (1985) classifies streams based on channel slope (Type A through D)

and dominant particle size of channel materials (sizes 1 through 6). Other factors considered include channel entrenchment, valley confinement, sinuosity, width/depth ratio, and whether channels are single- or multiple-thread. Using this information, it is possible to assess current channel condition.

**Channel Condition:** Refers to the stability of the channel determined through field observation of several factors. Channel condition is not set in time or place. It changes in response to climatic events as well as land management activities. To be meaningful, the condition must be considered over time.

**Chemical Agent:** A manufactured chemical compound.

**Chiseling:** Breaking or loosening the soil, without inversion, with a chisel cultivator or chisel plow. A practice used for grassland or pasture renovation. Also called ripping.

**Class of Animal:** Description of age and/or sex-group for a particular kind of animal. Example: cow, calf, yearling, ewe, doe, fawn, etc.

**Class I Area (Air Quality):** Under the 1977 Clean Air Act amendments, all international parks, National Parks greater than 6,000 acres, and national Wilderness areas greater than 5,000 acres that existed on August 7, 1977. This class provides the most protection to pristine lands; it severely limits the amount of air pollution that can be added to these areas.

**Class II Area (Air Quality):** All Wilderness areas designated after August 7, 1977 and all other National Forest System lands. This class provides a moderate degree of protection to lands by allowing a moderate increase in air pollution in these areas.

**Classified Lands:** Lands classified by laws or regulations. For example, Wilderness areas and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

**Classified Roads:** A road that is constructed or maintained for long-term highway vehicle use. Classified roads may be public, private, or forest development.

**Climax:**

1. The final or stable biotic community in a successional series that is self-perpetuating and in dynamic equilibrium with the physical habitat.
2. The assumed end point in succession.

**Closed Circulation System:** A system of equipment for drilling oil and gas wells that uses tanks instead of surface pits to contain all drilling fluids and cuttings. The fluid and cuttings are disposed of off-site in a manner consistent with state law.

**Closed Range:** Any range on which livestock grazing or other specified use is prohibited. Also called livestock exclusion.

**Cold-water Fishery:** Stream and lake waters that support predominately cold-water species of game or food fishes, which have maximum, sustained water-temperature tolerances of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit in the summer.

**Collectors:** (See "Road Functional Classification.")

**Commercial Timber Sales:** The selling of timber from National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, for the manufacture of commercial products, such as lumber, plywood, etc.

**Common Variety Minerals:** Deposits that do not possess a distinct, special economic value, although they may have value for use in trade or manufacture. These minerals include sand, stone, gravel, pumicite, cinders, and pumice.

**Community (Biological):** Any assembly of organisms living together.

**Community (Social):** The people who reside in one locality and are subject to the same laws or who have common interests, etc.

**Community Allotment:** An allotment upon which several permittees manage livestock in common.

**Community Life-styles:** The ways in which residents conduct their everyday routines and how those routines are associated with the national forests or national grasslands.

**Community Stability:** The capacity of a community to absorb and cope with change without major hardship to institutions or groups within the community.

**Complementary Pasture:** Short-term forage crop (not necessarily annual) planted for use by domestic stock to enhance the management and productivity of the ranch.

**Concern Levels:** A measure of the degree of public importance placed on landscapes viewed from travelways and use areas. Concern levels are divided into categories 1, 2, and 3, with concern level 1 being the highest.

**Condition of Approval (COA):** Conditions or provisions (requirements) under which an Application for a Permit to Drill or a Sundry Notice is approved for oil and gas leasing.

**Confine (Fire Management):** To limit fire spread within a predetermined area principally by using natural or preconstructed barriers or environmental surveillance under appropriate conditions (FSM 5105)

**Congressionally Designated Areas:** Lands within the boundaries of a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, the National Wild and Scenic River System, the National Trails System, the National Monuments, and the Recreation and Scenic Areas within the National Forest System, including national grasslands, and similar areas designated by Congressional legislation.

**Connectivity:** The arrangement of habitats that allows organisms and ecological processes to move across the landscape. Patches of similar habitats are close together or linked by corridors of appropriate vegetation. The opposite of fragmentation.

**Conservation:** The aggregate of practices and customs to perpetuate sustained yield of renewable resources and prevent waste of nonrenewable resources.

**Conservation Biology:** A synthetic discipline, comprising both pure and applied science, concerned with preserving the existing variety of organisms and natural habitats and the global reservoir of genetic diversity they represent.

**Conservation District:** A public organization created under state enabling laws as a special-purpose district to develop and carry out a program of soil, water, and related resource conservation, use, and development within its boundary. Usually a subdivision of state government with a local governing body and always with limited authorities. Often called a soil conservation district or a soil and water conservation district.

**Conservation Practices:** Required land use practices on the national grasslands that are imposed upon the persons or organizations holding grazing permits (including grazing agreements) in order to protect, improve, develop, and administer the land and thus assist in furthering the program of land conservation and good land utilization.

**Consultation:**

1. An active, affirmative process that (a) identifies issues and seeks input from appropriate American Indian governments, community groups, and individuals and (b) considers their interests as a necessary and integral part of the BLM and Forest Service decision-making process.
2. The legal obligation requiring the federal government, through consultation, to consider the interests of American Indian tribes and account for those interests in the decision-making process. This legal obligation is based in laws and numerous Executive Orders and statutes.
3. A process that involves discussions between a federal agency and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, regarding potential impacts on a species or critical habitat listed under Section 4 of the act.

**Consumptive Uses:** Uses of a resource that reduce the supply. Examples include irrigation, domestic and industrial water use, grazing, and timber harvest.

**Contact Herbicide:** A herbicide that kills primarily by contact with plant tissue rather than as a result of translocation.

**Contain (Fire Management):** To surround a fire, and any spots of fire, with a control line, as needed, which can reasonably be expected to check the fire's spread under prevailing conditions.

**Continuous Fuel Concentrations (Fire Management):** An uninterrupted distribution of fuel particles (surface or aerial) in a fuel bed, which allows fire to sustain combustion and actively continue to spread.

**Continuous Grazing:** The grazing of a specific unit by livestock throughout a year.

**Controlled Surface Use (CSU):** Allowed use and occupancy for oil and gas leasing, unless restricted by another stipulation, with identified resource values requiring special operational constraints that may modify the lease rights. CSU is used as an operating guideline, not as a substitute for No Surface Occupancy or a timing stipulation.

**Conversion (Vegetation):** To change the dominant vegetative species or growth form, such as grass/forb, through vegetative management.

**Cool-Season Plant:** A plant that generally makes the major portion of its growth during the late fall, winter, and early spring. Cool-season species generally exhibit the C3 photosynthetic pathway.

**Cooperating Agency:** Any federal agency other than the lead agency that has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in a proposal (or a reasonable alternative) for legislation or other major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

**Coordinated Resource Management Planning:** The process whereby various user groups are involved in discussion of alternate resource uses and collectively diagnose management problems, establish goals and objectives, and evaluate multiple use resource management.

**Corduroy:** A method of subgrade reinforcement often used on trails and for some roads. Logs are placed perpendicular to the travelway to support a surfacing material.

**Corridor (Utility or Rights-of-Way):** A linear strip of land defined for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries.

**Cost:** The negative or adverse effects or expenditures resulting from an action. Costs may be monetary, social, physical, or environmental in nature.

**Cost Efficiency:** The usefulness of specified inputs (costs) to produce specified outputs (benefits). In measuring cost efficiency, some outputs, including environmental, economic, or social impacts, are not assigned monetary values but are achieved at specific levels in the least-cost manner. Cost efficiency is usually measured using present net value, although use of benefit-cost ratios and rates of return may be appropriate.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ):** An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

**Cover Type:** The vegetative species that dominates a site. Cover types are named for one plant species or nonvegetative condition presently (not potentially) dominant, using canopy or foliage cover as the measure of dominance. In several cases, sites with more than one dominant species have been lumped together into one cover type. Codominance is not necessarily implied.

**Cover/Forage Ratio:** The ratio of tree cover (usually conifer types) to foraging areas, such as natural openings.

**Cretaceous:** The final period of the Mesozoic era (after the Jurassic and before the Tertiary period of the Cenozoic era), thought to have covered the span of time between 135 and 65 million years ago; also, the corresponding system of rocks. It is named after the Latin word for chalk (creta) because of the English chalk beds of this age.

**Critical Habitat (Threatened, Endangered, and Proposed Species):** Habitat of federally listed threatened or endangered species where those physical and biological features essential to conservation of the species are found and which may require special management considerations or protection. This habitat may currently be occupied or may be determined by the Secretary of the Interior to be essential for areas outside the species' current range.

**Cropland:** Land primarily used for the production of cultivated crops.

**Cross Fence:** A fence that divides an allotment or pasture into smaller units.

**Cubic Foot:** A unit of measure usually referring to wood volume (1 foot wide by 1 foot long by 1 foot thick).

**Cultural Resources:** (See "Heritage Resources.")

**Culture:** That complex whole that includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, customs, and any other capabilities and habits peculiar to a society.

**Cumulative Impact:** The impact on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions

regardless of the source (federal or nonfederal agencies, individuals). Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Cured Forage:** Forage, either standing or harvested, that has been naturally or artificially dried and preserved for future use.

**Dead Fuels (Fuels Management):** Fuels, with no living tissue, in which moisture content is governed almost entirely by atmospheric moisture (relative humidity and precipitation), dry-bulb temperature, and solar radiation.

**Decadence:** A process, condition, or period of deterioration or decline. Deterioration of vigor, especially as related to a vegetative community.

**Deciduous (Plant):** Plant parts, particularly leaves, that are shed at regular intervals or at a given stage of development; that is, a deciduous plant regularly loses or sheds its leaves.

**Decision Documents:** Documents that provide the criteria and information used in the formulation and evaluation of alternatives and the preferred alternative.

**Decreaser (Plant):** Plant species of the original or climax vegetation that will decrease in relative amount with continued disturbance (heavy defoliation, fire, drought) to the norm. Some agencies use this only in relation to response to overgrazing.

**Deferment:** Delay of livestock grazing on an area for an adequate period of time to allow plant reproduction, establishment of new plants, or restoration of vigor of existing plants.

**Deferred Rotation:** To discontinue grazing on various parts of a range in succeeding years, allowing each part of the range to rest successively during the growing season to permit seed production, establishment of seedlings, or restoration of plant vigor. Each rested part of the range is grazed during the year. At least two, but usually three or more, separate grazing units are required.

**Defoliation:** The removal of plant leaves by grazing or browsing, cutting, chemical defoliant, or natural phenomena, such as hail, fire, or frost.

**Degraded Water Body:** Lakes and streams that show bank disturbance, sediment loads, channel modification, flow disruption, chemical contamination, and biological stress directly or indirectly caused by human activities.

**Demand:** The amount of output that users are willing to take at a specified price, time period, and conditions of sale.

**Demand Analysis:** A study of the factors affecting the schedule of demand for a good or service, including the price-quantity relationship, if applicable.

**Dependent Communities:** Communities whose social, economic, or political life would become discernibly different in important respects if market or nonmarket outputs from the national forests or national grasslands were significantly disrupted.

**Desertification:** The process by which an area or region becomes more arid through loss of soil and vegetative cover. The process is often accelerated by excessive continuous overstocking and drought.

**Design Capacity:** The maximum theoretical amount of use a developed recreational site was built to accommodate. Usually expressed in Persons At One Time (PAOTs).

**Design Standard (Recreation):** Approved design and construction specifications for recreational facilities, which includes specified materials, colors, and dimensions.

**Designated Travelway:** A road or trail that has been identified by a Forest Service decision as open to all forms of travel.

**Designated Wilderness Areas:** (See "Wilderness.")

**Desired Future Condition:** A portrayal of the land or resource conditions that are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved.

**Desired Plant Species:** Species that contribute positively to the management objectives.

**Desired Plant Community:** A plant community that produces the kind, proportion, and amount of vegetation necessary for meeting or exceeding the land use plan/activity plan objectives established for an ecological site. The desired plant community must be consistent with the site's capability to produce the desired vegetation through management, land treatment, or a combination of the two.

**Deteriorated Range:** Range where vegetation and soils have significantly departed from the natural potential. Corrective management measures, such as seeding, would change the designation from deteriorated range to some other term.

**Detrimentially Impacted Soils:** An increase in bulk density from the average undisturbed bulk density values and the removal of soil from a continuous area of 100 square feet or more.

**Detritus:** Fragmented, particulate organic matter derived from the decomposition of debris.

**Developed Recreation:** This type of recreation is dependent on facilities provided to enhance recreational opportunities in concentrated use areas. Examples include campgrounds and picnic areas. Facilities in these areas might include roads, parking lots, picnic tables, toilets, drinking water, and buildings.

**Developed Recreation Sites:** Relatively small, distinctly defined areas where facilities are provided for concentrated public use, such as campgrounds, picnic areas, and swimming beaches.

**Development and Full Field Development (Oil and Gas):**

- **Development Well:** A well drilled in proven territory in a field to complete a pattern of production.
- **Full Field Development:** The drilling of the necessary development wells and associated field facilities, including roads, production facilities, pipelines, injection wells and power lines.

**Development Roads:** (See "Forest Development Roads.")

**Diameter at Breast Height:** The diameter of a standing tree at a point four feet, six inches from ground level.

**Direct Effects:** Environmental effects caused by an action and that occur at the same time and place.

**Directional Drilling (Oil and Gas):** Drilling boreholes with the directional course of the hole planned before drilling. Such holes are usually drilled with rotary equipment at an angle to the vertical and are useful in avoiding obstacles or in reaching side areas or the mineral estate beneath a restricted surface.

**Discovery Well (Oil and Gas):** An exploratory well that encounters a new and previously untapped mineral deposit. A discovery well may open up a new field, or it may locate a new and previously unknown producing horizon in an old field.

**Dispersal:** Leaving an area of birth, origin, or activity for another area.

**Dispersed Recreation:** This type of recreational use requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves activities related to roads, trails and undeveloped waterways, and beaches. The activities do not necessarily take place on or adjacent to a road, trail, or waterway, only in conjunction with them. Activities are often day-use oriented and include hunting, fishing, boating, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and others.

**Distance Zones:** Distance zones are mapped for travelways and use areas.

**Immediate Foreground:** 0 to 300 feet

At an immediate foreground distance, people can distinguish individual leaves, flowers, twigs, and small animals (chipmunks and songbirds) and can notice movement of leaves and grasses in light winds.

**Foreground:** 0 - 1/2 mile

At a foreground distance, people can distinguish small boughs of leaf clusters, individual shrubs, clumps of wildflowers, medium-sized animals (squirrels and rabbits), and medium-to-large birds (hawks, geese, and ducks).

**Middleground:** 1/2 to 4 miles

Middleground is usually the predominant distance zone at which national grassland and forest landscapes are seen. At this distance, people can distinguish individual tree forms, large boulders, flower fields, small openings in the forest, and small rock outcrops. Form, texture, and color remain dominant, and pattern is important.

**Background:** 4 miles to horizon

At a background distance, people can distinguish groves or stands of trees, large openings in the forest, and large rock outcrops. Texture has disappeared and color has flattened, but large patterns of vegetation or rock are still distinguishable and landform ridgelines and horizon lines are the dominant visual characteristic.

**District Ranger:** The official responsible for administering the National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, on a ranger district.

**Disturbance:** A discrete event, either natural or human induced, that causes a change in the existing condition of an ecological system.

**Diversity:** Diversity refers to the distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan.

This term is derived from the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). This term is not synonymous with "biological diversity."

**Domestic:** Refers to those animals and plants that are under the control of humans throughout their life cycle. Animals whose breeding is controlled by humans.

**Down and Dead Woody Material:** Woody material, from any source, that is dead and lying atop the ground.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS):** The statement of environmental effects required for major federal actions under Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act and released to the public and other agencies for comment and review.

**Drift Fence:** An open-ended fence used to retard or alter the natural movement of livestock. Generally used in connection with natural barriers.

**Drought:**

1. A prolonged chronic shortage of water, as compared to the norm, often associated with high temperatures and winds during spring, summer, and fall.
2. A period without precipitation during which the soil water content is reduced to such an extent that plants suffer from lack of water.

**Dry Meadow:** A meadow dominated by grasses and characterized by soils that become moderately dry by mid-summer.

**Easement:** A right held by one person to make use of another's land for a limited purpose, such as a special-use authorization for a right-of-way that conveys a limited interest in National Forest System land and is compensable according to its terms.

**Ecological Diversity:** The variety of ecosystems occurring within a given landscape.

**Ecology:** The study of the interrelationships of organisms with their environment.

**Economic Efficiency:** The usefulness of inputs (costs) to produce outputs (benefits) and effects when all costs and benefits that can be identified and valued are included in the computations. Economic efficiency is usually measured using present net value, though use of benefit-cost ratios and rates-of-return may sometimes be appropriate.

**Ecoregion:** A continuous geographic area over which the macroclimate is sufficiently uniform to permit development of similar ecosystems on sites with similar properties. Ecoregions contain multiple landscapes with different spatial patterns of ecosystems .

**Ecosystem:**

1. A community of living plants and animals interacting with each other and with their physical environment. A geographic area where it is meaningful to address the interrelationships with human social systems, sources of energy, and the ecological processes that shape change over time.
2. A community of organisms and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

**Ecosystem Health:** A condition where the parts and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system's capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for uses, values, and services of the ecosystem are met.

**Ecosystem Management:** Scientifically based land and resource management that integrates ecological capabilities with social values and economic relationships to produce, restore, or sustain ecosystem integrity and desired conditions, uses, products, values, and services over the long term.

**Ecotone:** A transition or junction zone between two or more diverse communities.

**Ecotype:** A locally adapted population of a species that has a distinctive limit of tolerance to environmental factors. A genically uniform population of a species resulting from natural selection by the special conditions of a particular habitat.

**Edaphic:** The influence of soils on living organisms, particularly plants, including people's use of the land for plant growth.

**Edge Effect:** Either suppression of growth or excessive growth at the edges of a plot where the plants come in contact with plants of a different variety and different competitive ability. With respect to edges as boundaries of ecosystems, it refers to the greater diversity of animals found, those from each of the adjoining ecosystems as well as those that specialize on the edge itself.

**Effects:** Physical, biological, social, and economic results (expected or experienced) resulting from achievement of outputs. Effects can be direct, indirect, and cumulative.

**Effects (Heritage Resources):** Impacts to the characteristics that qualify a heritage resource for the National Register of Historic Places. These can include alterations in location, setting, use design, materials, feeling, and association. Adverse effects include:

- a. Physical destruction or damage.
- b. Isolation from or alteration of setting.
- c. Introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements.
- d. Physical deterioration from neglect or from any action.
- e. Transfer, lease, or sale.

**Eligible (Heritage Resources):** Indicates that a specific heritage resource qualifies for or is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Encroachments:** Improvements occupied or used on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, without authorization.

**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 of 1973:** An act to conserve ecosystems for endangered species and threatened species, to conserve the endangered species and threatened species themselves, and to take appropriate steps to achieve the purposes of the (relevant) treaties and conventions.

**Endemic:** Belonging or native to a given geographic region. Not introduced or naturalized.

**Environment:** All the conditions, circumstances, and influences surrounding and affecting the development of an organism or group of organisms.

**Environmental Analysis:** An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions.

**Environmental Assessment:** A concise public document, for which a federal agency is responsible, that serves to:

- Briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact.
- Aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act when no environmental impact statement is necessary.
- Facilitate the preparation of an environmental impact statement when one is necessary.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS):** A document prepared by a federal agency in which anticipated environmental effects of a planned course of action or development are evaluated. A federal statute (Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) requires that such statements be prepared. An EIS is prepared first in draft or review form and then in a final form and includes the following points:

- a. The environmental impact of the proposed action.
- b. Any adverse impacts that cannot be avoided by the action.
- c. The alternative courses of action.
- d. The relationships between local short-term use of the human environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity.
- e. A description of the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources which would occur if the action was accomplished.

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

**Equilibrium Theory:** In island biogeography, greater numbers of species are expected to be found on larger islands because the populations on smaller islands are more vulnerable to extinction. Often applied to terrestrial analogs, such as forest or grassland patches in agricultural or suburban areas or nature reserves.

**Eradication (Plant):** Complete kill or removal of a noxious plant from an area, including all plant structures capable of sexual or vegetative reproduction.

**Erosion:** The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, gravity, or other geological activities.

**Essential Habitat:** Those areas designated by Regional Foresters as possessing the same characteristics as critical habitat without having been declared as critical habitat by the Secretary of Interior. The term includes habitats necessary to meet recovery objectives for endangered, threatened, and proposed species and those habitats necessary to maintain viable populations of sensitive species.

**Executive Order:** An order or regulation issued by the President or some administrative authority under presidential direction.

**Exempt Stock:** Livestock permitted to graze on federal land free of charge. Usually confined to animals actually used for domestic purposes, like saddle horses and milk cows.

**Existing Road System:** All existing roads, owned or administered by various agencies, that are wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving national forests and national grasslands or intermingled private lands (ref: FSM 7705.21). These roads may or may not be included on the current Forest Transportation Inventory but are evident on the ground as meeting the definition of a road.

**Exotic:** Not native to the place where it is found. Often in reference to a specific race or variety of an organism that has been transplanted to a new region.

**Exploration and Wildcat Wells (Oil and Gas):** Wells drilled to test for the presence of oil or gas in a previously undeveloped area.

**Extinction:** Disappearance of a taxon of organisms from existence in all regions.

**Extirpated:** The elimination of a species from a particular area.

**Extractive Use:** Use of natural resources that removes them from their natural setting.

**Facility:** Structures needed to support the management, protection, and utilization of the national forests and national grasslands, including buildings, utility systems, dams, and other construction features. There are three categories of facilities: recreation, administrative, and permitted.

**Fair Market Value:** The amount or value for which, in all probability, a property would be sold by a knowledgeable owner willing but not obligated to sell to a knowledgeable purchaser who desires but is not obligated to buy.

**Fee Sites (Recreation):** A Forest Service recreational area where users must pay a fee. Fee sites must meet certain standards and provide certain facilities.

**Fee Title (Landownership):** The full and complete possessory ownership of a parcel of land. An inheritable estate.

**Feed Lot:** A commercial facility for high-intensity feeding of livestock under a controlled environment.

**Feral:** Plants or animals that are no longer under human cultivation or domestication and have reverted to a wild state.

**Fertilizer:** Mineral nutrients added to the substrate of plants to enhance growth and vitality.

**Fire Incidence:** The average number of fires in a specified area during a specified time.

**Fire Occurrence:** Number of fires per unit time in a specified area. Synonymous with fire frequency.

**Fire Risk:** The chance of a fire starting, as affected by nature and incidence of causative agents, including lightning, people, and industry. Three risk scales are used:

- **High** - includes locations where lightning, people, or industry have commonly caused fires in the past
- **Moderate** - includes locations where lightning, people, or industry have periodically caused fires in the past.

- **Low** - includes locations where lightning, people, or industry have infrequently caused fires in the past.

**Fire Suppression:** All the work and activities connected with fire-extinguishing operations beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

**Fire Suppression Objective:** To suppress wildfires at minimum costs consistent with land and resource management objectives and fire management direction as determined by the National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS). This includes all work and activities associated with fire-extinguishing operations, beginning with discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished. An example might be a fire suppression objective of five acres, based on a cost-effectiveness analysis.

**Fire-dependent Systems:** Forests, grasslands, and other ecosystems historically composed of species of plants that evolved with and are maintained by fire regimes.

**Fireline Intensity:** The rate of heat energy released per unit time per unit length of a fire front. Numerically, it is the product of the heat combustion, quality of fuel consumed per unit area in the fire front, and the rate of spread of a fire (as measured in BTUs per second foot of the fire front).

**Firewood:** (See "Fuel Wood.")

**Fiscal Year:** Within the Forest Service, the fiscal year includes October 1 to September 30, the following year. For example, October 1, 1996 to September 30, 1997 is referred to as Fiscal Year 1997.

**Fisheries Habitat:** Streams, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs that contain and support fish.

**Floodplain:** The area adjacent to a stream/river channel effective in carrying flow, within which carrying capacity must be preserved and where the flood hazard is generally highest; that is, where flood depths and velocities are the greatest (FSH 2520).

**Forage:** Vegetation used for food by wildlife and livestock, particularly ungulate wildlife and domestic livestock.

**Forage Production:** The weight of forage that is produced within a designated period of time on a given area. The weight may be expressed as green, air dry, or oven dry. The term may also be modified as to time of production such as annual, current year's, or seasonal forage production.

**Forbs:** Any herbaceous plant other than those in the grass, sedge, and rush families. For example, any non grass-like plant that has little or no woody material.

**Foreground:** (See "Distance Zones.")

**Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA):** An act of Congress requiring the preparation of a program for the management of the National Forest's renewable resources, and of land and resource management plans for units of the National Forest System, including national grasslands. It also requires a continuing inventory of all National Forest System lands and renewable resources.

**Forest Development Roads:** A Forest road under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. Forest Development Roads are not intended to meet the transportation needs of the public at large. Generally, these are roads constructed to a standard to serve expected traffic generated by resource

management. Although generally open and available for public use, the Forest Service may restrict or control use to meet specific management direction.

**Forest Development Trails:** As defined in 36 CFR 212.1 and 261.2, those trails wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving national forests and national grasslands that have been included in the Forest Development Transportation Plan. A trail is a pathway for purposes of travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicle.

**Forest Development Transportation Facility:** An access road, trail, waterway, or airfield wholly or partly within, or adjacent to, and serving national forests and national grasslands, which has been included in the Forest Development Transportation System.

**Forest Development Transportation Plan:** The plan for the system of access roads, trails, and airfields needed for the protection, administration, and utilization of the national forests and national grasslands or the development and use of resources upon which communities within or adjacent to National Forest System lands are dependent.

**Forest Development Transportation System:** Those facilities, Forest Development Roads, trails, and airfields in the transportation network and under Forest Service jurisdiction.

**Forest Facility Master Plan:** The plan that depicts the development and management each national forest's facilities. This includes the current volume of business and projections for the future, locations of needed skills to perform program work, existing administrative sites and proposed locations of new sites, and management strategies concerning consolidation or sharing between units.

**Forest Plan (Forest Land and Resource Management Plan):** A document that guides natural resource management and establishes standards and guidelines for a national forest or national grassland. Required by the National Forest Management Act.

**Forest Supervisor:** Official responsible for administering any particular national forest. Forest supervisors report to regional foresters.

**Forest System Roads:** Roads that are part of the Forest Development Transportation System, which includes all existing and planned roads, as well as other special and terminal facilities designated as part of the Forest Development Transportation System.

**Forest Visitor Map:** Maps depicting detailed information concerning national forests, national grasslands, national recreation areas, and special interest areas. The format is an entire national forest, national grassland, or subdivision thereof. Forest Visitor Maps are available to the public at a price that reimburses the cost of printing and distribution.

**Forested Range:** Forestland that produces, at least periodically, sufficient understory vegetation suitable for forage and that can be grazed without significantly impairing wood production and other forest values.

**Fossil:** The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms that have been preserved by natural processes in the Earth's crust. Minerals, such as oil and gas, coal, oil shale, bitumen, lignite, asphaltum and tar sands, phosphate, limestone, diatomaceous earth, uranium, and vanadium, while they may be of biologic origin, are not here considered fossils. Fossils of scientific value may occur within or in association with such minerals.

**Fragmentation:** The breakup of a large land area (such as a grassland) into smaller patches isolated by areas converted to a different land type. The opposite of connectivity.

**Free-flowing:** Existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.

**Free Range:** Range open to grazing regardless of ownership and without payment of fees. Not to be confused with open range.

**FSH:** *Forest Service Handbook.*

**FSM:** *Forest Service Manual.*

**Fuel Break:** A zone in which fuel quantity has been reduced or altered to provide a position for wildfire suppression. Fuel breaks are designated or constructed before the outbreak of a fire. Fuel breaks may consist of one or a combination of the following: natural barriers, constructed fuelbreaks, and human-made barriers.

**Fuel Loading:** The volume of available or burnable fuels in a specified area, usually expressed in tons per acre.

**Fuels Management:** Manipulation or reduction of fuels to meet protection and management objectives while preserving and enhancing environmental quality.

**Fuel Treatment:** Any manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control, including lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, and burning. Synonymous with fuel modification.

**Fuels:** The organic materials that will support the start and spread of a fire: duff, litter, grass, weeds, forbs, brush, trees, and dead woody materials.

**Fuelwood:** Round, split, or sawed wood cut into short lengths for burning as fuel.

**Fully Active Prairie Dog Colony:** A prairie dog colony that supports a prairie dog density that has not been noticeably reduced by poisoning, plague, or shooting and that is essentially at its carrying capacity.

**FY:** Fiscal Year.

**Game Species:** Any species of wildlife or fish for which seasons and bag limits have been prescribed and which are normally harvested by hunters, trappers, and fishermen under state or federal laws, codes, and regulations.

**Gap Analysis:** A process to determine distribution and status of biological diversity and assess adequacy of existing management areas to protect biological diversity.

**Gene Flow:** The movement of genes from one part of a population to another or from one population to another, through the transfer of gametes.

**Gene Pool:** The sum total of all the genes of all the individuals in a population at a given time.

**Genetic Diversity:** The genetic variation present in individuals, populations or species.

**Geographic Area:** A piece of land where management is directed toward achieving a specified desired condition.

**Geological Area:** A unit of land that has been designated by the Forest Service as containing outstanding formations or unique geological features of the earth's development, including caves and fossils.

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** A spatial type of information management system that provides for the entry, storage, manipulation, retrieval, and display of spatially oriented data.

**Geophysical Operation:** Prospecting for minerals or mineral fuels by measuring the various physical properties of the rocks and interpreting the results in terms of geologic feature or the economic deposits sought. Physical measurements are taken at the surface, concerning the differences in the density, electrical resistance, or magnetic properties of the rocks. There are four main methods employed in geophysical prospecting: gravitational, magnetic, electrical, and seismic, with several modifications of each.

**Geothermal Resources:** Of or relating to the heat of the Earth's interior.

**Goal:** A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. A goal is normally expressed in broad, general terms that are timeless in that there is no specific date by which the goal is to be achieved (36 CFR 219.3). The Region 2 Desk Guide has this to say about goals: "Desired conditions and processes are measurable, have a timeless nature, and describe a resource condition or ecological process. In the first round of (land and resource management) planning, these statements were often termed 'goals.' They describe the conditions or processes we expect to achieve through resource management. Complete accomplishment of desired conditions is not mandatory during the current planning phase, but it is our ultimate intent."

**Goods and Services:** The various outputs, including onsite uses, produced by forest and rangeland renewable resources.

**Graminoid:** Grass or grass-like plant, such as *Poa*, *Carex*, and *Juncus* species.

**Grant:** A grant passes some estate or interest, corporeal or incorporeal, in the lands that it embraces. To give or permit as a right or privilege, such as a grant of route authority.

**Grass:** A member of the grass family, Poaceae.

**Grassland:** Any land on which the dominant plants are grasses or on which grasses originally dominated.

**Grassland Agriculture:** The management and utilization of the land within areas of native and introduced grasses and the land's associated resources and values in harmony with nature's requirements and behavior so as to foster the long-term stability and productivity of the ecosystem and the rural land base of the area, the quality of life and economic stability of people living on the land, and the local communities associated with the land.

**Grassland Agriculture:** The management and utilization of the land resources and values within grassland biomes in harmony with nature's requirements and behavior to foster long-term economic stability, productivity of the land base, and quality of life of the people and communities associated with it.

**Grazing:** The act of animals consuming plants on range or pasture.

**Grazing Association:** A group of individuals permitted to graze the National Grassland under a grazing agreement. This group is governed by its established constitution, by-laws, and rules of management.

**Grazing Capacity:** The maximum number of livestock under management that a given range area is capable of supporting within guidelines found in the allotment management plan.

**Grazing Distribution:** Dispersion of livestock or wild herbivores grazing within a given area.

**Grazing District:**

1. An administrative unit of federal range established by the Secretary of Interior under the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, as amended.
2. An administrative unit of state, private, or other rangelands, established under certain state laws.

**Grazing Fee:** A charge, usually on a monthly basis, for grazing use by a given kind of animal.

**Grazing Land:** An area of rangeland, public, or private, that is used by animals for grazing.

**Grazing Permit:** Official, written permission to graze a specified number, kind, and class of livestock for a specific period on a defined range allotment.

**Grazing Season:**

1. A period of grazing to obtain optimum use of the forage resource.
2. On public lands, an established period for which grazing permits are issued.

**Grazing, Short-duration:** A grazing system in which animals are concentrated on less than one-half of the total land area and the lengths of deferment exceed the lengths of grazing.

**Grazing System:** A specialization of grazing management that defines systematically recurring periods of grazing and deferment for two or more pastures or management units. Some examples are: deferred grazing, rotation grazing, deferred-rotation grazing, and short-duration grazing.

**Grazing Trespass:** The grazing of livestock on a range area without proper authority and resulting from a willful or negligent act.

**Grazing Unit:** An area of rangeland, public, or private, that is grazed as an allotment or pasture.

**Ground Cover:** The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. It may include live and standing dead vegetation, litter, cobble, gravel, stones, and bedrock. Ground cover plus bare ground would total 100 percent.

**Groundwater:** Water within the Earth that supplies wells and springs. Specifically, water in the zone of saturation where all openings in soils and rocks are filled. The upper surface level forms the water table.

**Growing Season:** In temperate climates, that portion of the year when temperature and moisture permit plant growth.

**Guideline:** Desirable, though not mandatory, requirements. Requirements found in guidelines must be met, unless documentation exists to indicate a reasoned decision not to meet them.

**Guilds:** A group of organisms that share a common food source.

**Habitat:** The place where a plant or animal organism lives.

**Habitat Capability:** The ability of an area to support selected wildlife species for all or a part of its life cycle.

**Habitat Effectiveness:** As used in this document, habitat effectiveness refers to the capability of an area to support big game based on forage, cover, open roads, and the spatial distribution of the three factors, regardless of the time of year.

**Habitat Suitability:** The ability of an area to support selected wildlife species yearlong or seasonally relative to the site potential of that area to support the species. Habitat suitability ratings are as follows:

- **Low** - an area meeting 0 to 33 percent of its capability to support the species.
- **Moderate** - an area meeting 34 to 67 percent of its capability to support the species.
- **High** - an area meeting 68-100 percent of its capability to support the species.

**Half Lives:** The time required for half of a chemical agent to undergo decay to a neutral chemical compound.

**Hard Snags:** A dead or partially dead tree composed primarily of sound wood, particularly sound sapwood.

**Hardened Sites (Recreation):** Developed recreation sites where techniques have been used to protect natural resources (soil, water, vegetation, etc.) from overuse. For example, vehicles may be confined to roads by barriers or gravel, pavement, or soil additives may be placed on roads, walkways, and under picnic tables.

**Hardwood:** Pertains to broadleaf trees or shrubs.

**Hardwood Draws:** Upland drainages containing deciduous trees and shrubs.

**Hay:** Herbage, especially grass and legumes, mowed, cured, and stored for fodder.

**Haying:** The mowing, baling, and storage of hay to be used as a product.

**Herb:** A plant with one or more stems that dies back to the ground each year.

**Herbaceous Crop:** A crop of plants with herb characteristics.

**Herbicide:** A chemical substance used for killing plants.

**Herbivore:** An animal that subsists principally or entirely on plants or plant material.

**Herd:** An assemblage of animals usually of the same species.

**Heritage Resources:** The physical remains and conceptual content or context of an area. Physical remains may include artifacts, structures, landscape modifications, rock art, trails, or roads. Conceptual content/context includes the setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, such as a sacred area for American Indians.

**High Edge Contrast:** Found at the junction of two communities or stands that are structurally very different: for example, a mature forest and grass/forb community.

**Historic Property:** Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains related to and located within such properties.

**Historical Range of Variability:** The natural fluctuation of components of healthy ecosystems over time. Refers to the range of conditions and processes that are likely to have occurred prior to settlement of the project area by people of European descent (approximately the mid-1800s), which would have varied within certain limits over time. Historical conditions and processes portrayed include such variables as forest or grassland vegetation types, compositions, and structures; fish and wildlife habitats and populations; and drought, grazing, and fire regimes.

**Holistic Resource Management:** Holistic Resource Management (HRM) is a practical, goal-oriented approach to the management of the ecosystem including the human, financial, and biological resources on farms, ranches, public, and tribal lands, as well as national parks, vital water catchments, and other areas. HRM entails the use of a management model that incorporates a holistic view of land, people, and dollars.

**Home Range:** The geographic area within which an animal restricts its activities.

**Human Environment:** Includes the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people within that environment.

**Hydrologic Cycle:** The ecological cycle that moves water from the air, by precipitation, to the earth and back to the atmosphere. A variety of processes are involved, including evaporation, runoff, infiltration, percolation, storage, and transpiration.

**IDT:** Interdisciplinary Team.

**Ignition:** The initiation of combustion.

**Implementation:** Those activities necessary to initiate the actions in the approved land and resource management plan.

**In Situ:** In place, onsite. Organisms located in their natural or original position.

**Inactive Prairie Dog Colony:** A prairie dog colony that no longer supports a prairie dog population due to poisoning or plague; however, the colony area still retains its intact burrow system.

**Increaser (Plant):** Plant species of the original vegetation that increase in relative amount, at least for a time, under continued disturbance (heavy defoliation, fire, drought) to the norm.

**Indicator Species:** Species identified in a planning process that are used to monitor the effects of planned management activities on viable populations of wildlife and fish, including those activities that are socially or economically important.

**Indigenous Species:** Animals or plants that originated in the area in which they are found; for example, animals or plants that were not introduced after frontier settlement of the Northern Great Plains and the naturally occur on the Northern Great Plains.

**Indirect Effects:** Environmental effects caused by the action but resulting later in time or farther away in place, yet which are still reasonably foreseeable.

**Infrastructure:** The facilities, utilities, and transportation systems needed to meet public and administrative needs.

**Ingress:** The act or right to enter; access; entrance.

**In-holdings:** Lands within the proclaimed boundaries of a national forest or national grassland that are owned by some other agency, organization, or individual.

**Instream Flows:** The minimum water volume (cubic feet per second) in each stream necessary to meet seasonal streamflow requirements for maintaining aquatic ecosystems, visual quality, recreational opportunities, and other uses.

**Insecticide:** A chemical or biological agent formulated to kill insects.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** A process for evaluating and selecting a program from available techniques to reduce pest populations in an ecologically, economically, and socially acceptable manner. Programs may include one or a combination of available techniques: for example, 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.

**Intensity (Fire Management):** A measure (in BTUs per foot per second) of the energy released per unit of time in an area of actively burning fire; the amount of heat released per foot of fire front per second.

**Intensive Grazing:** Grazing management that controls the distribution of cattle and duration of use on the range, usually by fences, so parts of the range are rested during the growing season.

**Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team):** A group of people with different specialized training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team is assembled out of recognition that no one discipline is sufficiently broad to adequately solve the problem. Through interaction, participants bring different points of view and broader range of expertise to bear on the problem.

**Intermittent Service (Roads):** A facility developed and operated for periodic service and restricted to nonmotorized use for more than one year between periods of use.

**Intermittent Stream:**

1. A stream that flows only 50 to 90 percent of the year when it receives water from some surface source, such as melting snow.
2. A stream that does not flow continuously, as when water losses from evaporation or seepage exceed the available streamflow.

**Interpretive Services:** Visitor information services designed to inform and educate national forest and national grassland visitors in order to improve their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of national forest and national grassland resources.

**Introduced Species:** A species not a part of the original fauna or flora of the area in question.

**Invader (Plant):** Plant species that were absent in undisturbed portions of the original vegetation of a specific range site and will invade or increase following disturbance or continued heavy grazing.

**Invasive Plant:** A species that displays rapid growth and spread, free from natural controls and enhanced by abundant seed production and germination.

**Invertebrate Fossils:** The fossilized remains of animals that do not have a bony skeleton or backbone. Examples of invertebrate fossils include: shellfish, snails, and bugs.

**Irretrievable Commitments:** Applies to losses of production or use of renewable natural resources for a period of time. For example, road construction leads to an irretrievable loss of the productivity of the land under which the road is located. If the road is later obliterated, the land may eventually become productive again. The production lost is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible.

**Irreversible Commitments:** Decisions causing changes that cannot be reversed. For example, if an area is mined, that area cannot, at a later date, be allocated to some other resource activities, such as Wilderness. Once mined, the ability of that area to meet Wilderness criteria, for instance, has been irreversibly lost. Irreversible commitments often apply to some non-renewable resource, such as minerals and heritage resources.

**Jurisdiction:** The right, power, or authority to administer or control. As an example, a county has jurisdiction over county roads and may manage them as desired.

**Key Area:**

1. An area selected to monitor the effects of management activities on ecosystem health. Examples may include but are not limited to, woody draws, uplands, riparian areas, and valley bottoms.
2. That portion of a pasture or grazing unit which is selected as a monitoring point because of its location, use, or grazing value.

**Keystone Species:** Species that play roles affecting many other organisms in an ecosystem. Often they are grouped according to their perceived importance to humans, such as upland birds or waterfowl.

**Known Geologic Structures (KGS):** A trap in which an accumulation of oil and gas has been discovered by drilling and which is determined to be productive. Its limits include all acreage that is presumptively productive.

**Land Exchange:** The conveyance of nonfederal land or interests to the United States in exchange for National Forest System land, including national grasslands, or interests in such land.

**Land Unit:** A mapped land type polygon or a mapped soil unit.

**Landline Location:** The legal identification, accurate location, and description of property boundaries.

**Landowner:** Person who has title to land recognized by the prevailing legal system.

**Landscape:** The landforms of a region in aggregate.

**Landscape Connectivity:** The spatial contiguity within the landscape. A measure of how easy or difficult it is for organisms to move through the landscape without crossing habitat barriers.

**Landscape Diversity:** Variability of the components of a landscape.

**Land type:** An inventory map unit, with relatively uniform potential, for a defined set of land uses. Properties of soils, landform, natural vegetation, and bedrock are common components of landtype delineation used to evaluate potentials and limitations for land use.

**Landtype Group:** A logical grouping of landtypes that facilitate resource planning.

**Late Succession Forests:** Ecosystems distinguished by old trees and related structural features. This term encompasses the later stages of stand development that typically differ from earlier

stages in structure, composition, function, and other attributes. There are two types of late succession ponderosa pine defined for the Northern Great Plains:

1. Open-canopy late succession ponderosa pine, occurs where periodic, low-intensity fires have been part of the ecosystem. These late successional stands consist of clumps or groups of trees with grasses in the openings between the clumps. The clumps or groups of trees contain little down dead material and few small trees.
2. Closed-canopy, late succession ponderosa pine occurs where periodic, low-intensity high-frequency fires have not been a significant part of the ecosystem. These stands contain large old trees with open branches and irregular crowns. The stands have multiple canopy layers made up of various-aged trees. They are well-stocked with trees and contain standing dead and down trees.

**Lead Agency:** The agency or agencies preparing or having taken the primary responsibility for preparing an environmental impact statement.

**Leasable Minerals:** Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulphur, potassium, sodium minerals, and oil and gas. Geothermal resources are also leasable under the Geothermal Stream Act of 1970.

**Lease (Oil and Gas):** A legal contract granting the right to explore for, develop and produce oil and gas resources for a specific period of time under certain agreed-upon terms and conditions.

**Lease Modification (Oil and Gas):** Fundamental change to the provisions of a lease stipulation either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A modification may include an exemption from or alteration to a stipulated requirement. Depending on the specific modification, the stipulation may or may not apply to all other sites within the leasehold to which the restrictive criteria applied.

**Lease Stipulations (Oil and Gas):** Additional specific terms and conditions that modify the lease rights or change the manner in which an operation may be conducted.

**Leasehold (Oil and Gas):** The area described in a federal oil and gas lease.

**Lessee (Oil and Gas):** A person or entity holding record title in an oil and gas lease issued by the United States.

**Life-style:** A characteristically different way of living that may be an individual variant within the cultural mainstream or may be an individual expression of a subculture. Life-styles are generally expressed through the means of economic sustenance, dwelling site and type, types of group associations, and social practices such as family form, religious practices, sexual mores, style of dress, and type of diet.

**Listed Species:** Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant officially designated as endangered or threatened by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce.

**Litter:** A surface layer of loose organic debris consisting of freshly fallen or slightly decomposed organic materials.

**Livestock:** Domestic animals.

**Livestock Use Permit:** Used to document specific animal numbers, class, and seasons of use under a specified management plan for a given period (10 years).

**Local Roads.** Roads that connect terminal facilities with collector roads, arterial roads, or public highways. May be developed for either short-term or long-term service.

**Locatable Minerals:** Minerals or mineral materials subject to claim and development under the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. Generally, locatable minerals include metallic minerals, such as gold and silver, and other materials not subject to lease or sale, like some bentonites, limestone, talc, zeolites, etc.

**Loess:** A uniform and unstratified fine sand or silt transported by wind.

**Logging:** Harvest of trees of given size from a forest.

**Maintenance (Transportation Management):** The upkeep of the entire Forest Development Transportation Facility, including surfaces and shoulders, parking and side areas, structures, and such traffic control devices as are necessary for its safe and efficient utilization.

**Maintenance Levels:** See Road Maintenance Levels.

**Major Federal Action:** Includes actions with effects that may be major and which are potentially subject to federal control and responsibility.

**Managed Season (Recreation):** That period of time during which developed recreational sites are open for public use, with routine maintenance, cleanup, and operation on a scheduled basis.

**Management:** The organization of actions designed to reach a given set of objectives.

**Management Area:** An aggregation of capability areas that have common management direction and may be noncontiguous on the national forest or national grassland. These areas consist of a grouping of capability areas selected through evaluation procedures and used to locate decisions and resolve issues and concerns.

**Management Indicators (Fish and Wildlife):** Plant or animal species or habitat components selected in a planning process used to monitor the effects of planned management activities on populations of wildlife and fish, including those that are socially or economically important.

**Marginal Land:** Land of questionable physical or economic capabilities for sustaining a specific use.

**Market Value:** The unit price of an output normally exchanged in a market after at least one stage of production, expressed in terms of what people are willing to pay as evidenced by market transactions.

**MBF:** Thousand Board Feet.

**MCF:** Thousand Cubic Feet.

**Meadow:**

1. An area of perennial herbaceous vegetation, usually grass or grasslike, used primarily for hay production.
2. Openings in forests and grasslands of exceptional productivity in arid regions, usually resulting from high water content of the soil (streamside situations, areas having a perched water table).

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):** A legal agreement between the Forest Service, other agencies, private parties, or individuals resulting from consultation between them that states

specific measures they will follow to accomplish a project. A memorandum of understanding is not a fund-obligating document.

**Mesa:** A flat-topped mountain or other elevation bounded on at least one side by a steep cliff.

**Microsite:** A rock outcrop, snag, seep, stream pool, and other environmental features small in scale but unique in character.

**Middleground:** (See "Distance Zones.")

**Migration:** The movement of genotypes (as individuals) into or out of a population.

**Mineral Development:** The activities and facilities associated with extracting a proven mineral deposit.

**Mineral Entry:** Claiming public lands administered by the Forest Service, including national grasslands, under the Mining Law of 1872 for the purpose of exploiting minerals. This can also refer to mineral exploration and development under the mineral leasing laws and the Material Sale Act of 1947.

**Mineral Estate:** The ownership of minerals, including rights necessary for access, exploration, development, and transportation operations.

**Mineral Material:** Common varieties of sand, building stone, gravel, clay, etc., obtainable under the Minerals Act of 1947, as amended.

**Mineral Material Permit:** A document used for sale transactions of common variety, salable minerals.

**Mineral Potential:** The classification of lands according to the probability of undiscovered mineral resources, delineated as to the type of mineral, the extent of the expected deposit, and the likelihood of its occurrence. The likelihood of occurrence for oil and gas is classified as follows:

- **High Potential:** Describes a geologic environment that is highly favorable for discovering oil and gas resources. The area is on or near a producing field, and evidence exists that the geologic conditions of the reservoir, source, and trap necessary for the accumulation of oil and gas are present.
- **Moderate Potential:** Refers to an environment that is favorable for the occurrence of undiscovered oil and gas resources; however, one of the geologic conditions necessary for the accumulation of oil or gas may be absent.
- **Low Potential:** Refers to an environment that is not favorable for the accumulation of oil and gas as indicated by geologic, geochemical, and geophysical characteristics. Evidence exists that one of the geologic conditions necessary for the accumulation of oil or gas is absent.
- **Unknown Potential:** Refers to the region for which geologic information is insufficient to otherwise categorize potential. This category should be limited to specific areas for which there is a true lack of data and should not be used as a substitute for performing the interpretation.

**Mineral Production:** The extraction of mineral deposits.

**Mineral Rights:**

- **Mineral rights outstanding** are third-party rights, an interest in minerals not owned by the person or party conveying the land to the United States. It is an exception in the deed that is the result of a prior conveyance separating title of certain minerals from the surface estate.
- **Reserved mineral rights** are the retention of ownership of all or part of the mineral rights by a person or party conveying land to the United States. Conditions for the exercising of these rights have been defined in the Secretary's "Rules and Regulations to Govern Exercising of Mineral Rights Reserved in Conveyances to the United States" attached to and made a part of deeds reserving mineral rights.

**Mineral Withdrawal:** The exclusion of locatable mineral deposits from mineral entry on areas required for administrative sites by the Forest Service and other areas highly valued by the public. Public lands withdrawn from entry under the General Mining Laws and/or the Mineral Leasing Laws.

**Minimum Management Requirements:** Standards for resource protection, vegetative manipulation, silviculturist practices, even-aged management, riparian areas, soil and water, and diversity to be met in accomplishing National Forest System goals and objectives.

**Mining Claims:** That portion of the public estate held for mining purposes in which the right of exclusive possession of locatable mineral deposits is vested in the locator of a deposit.

**Mining Law of 1872:** Provides for claiming and gaining title to locatable minerals on public lands. Also referred to as the "General Mining Law" or "Mining Law."

**Mitigate:** To lessen the severity.

**Mitigation:** Includes avoiding an impact by not taking certain actions; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

**Mitigation (Heritage Resources):** Actions taken to reduce or eliminate adverse effects caused to heritage resources. Avoidance is not considered a mitigation measure.

**MMBF:** Million Board Feet.

**MMCF:** Million Cubic Feet.

**Modeling:** The use of mathematical and computer-based simulations as a tool to enhance understanding of complex systems and as planning techniques for such purposes as developing species recovery plans and understanding population structure, extinction vulnerabilities, or deforestation rates.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The sample collection and analysis of information regarding Forest Plan management practices to determine how well objectives have been met, as well as the effects of those management practices on the land and environment.

**Monoculture:** The cultivation of a single crop to the exclusion of other land uses.

**Motorized Equipment:** Machines that use a motor, engine, or other nonliving power source. This includes, but is not limited to, such machines as chain saws, aircraft, snowmobiles, generators, motor boats, and motor vehicles. It does not include small battery or gas-powered hand-carried devices, such as shavers, wristwatches, flashlights, cameras, stoves, or other similar small equipment.

**Motorized Recreation:** A recreational opportunity provided through the use of a motorized vehicle. This includes travel on and off highways, Forest roads, and four-wheel-drive primitive roads and trails. Travel regulations may be established to protect forest and grassland resources, to minimize use conflicts, and to promote user safety.

**Mowing:** The cutting of hay to be left on the ground.

**MOU:** See Memorandum of Understanding.

**Multiple Use:** According to the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960, multiple use is the management of all the various renewable surface resources of the National Forest System, including national grasslands, so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the needs of the American people. Such management makes 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 conform to changing needs and conditions. Some lands will be used for less than all of the resources. Harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources is employed, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land. Consideration is given to the relative values of the various resources and not necessarily the combination of uses that gives the greatest dollar return or the greatest unit output.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA):** An act declaring a national policy to encourage productive harmony between people and their environment, to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and the biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of people and to enrich the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation and to establish a Council on Environmental Quality.

**National Fire Management Analysis System (NFMAS):** A broad umbrella process to help fire managers identify the most efficient fire program meeting the direction in the Forest Plan. This includes information for the planning record on program composition, annual programmed costs, emergency firefighting costs, expected resource impacts, and net value change.

**National Forest Management Act (NFMA):** A 1976 law that amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and requires the preparation of Regional and Forest Plans and regulations to guide forest plan development.

**National Grasslands:** Lands designated national grasslands by the Secretary of Agriculture and permanently held by the Department of Agriculture under Title III of the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act.

**National Forest System (NFS) Lands:** Federal lands designated by Executive Order or statute as national forests, national grasslands, or purchase units, or other lands under the administration of the U.S. Forest Service.

**National Natural Landmark:** An area possessing such exceptional value or qualities for illustrating or interpreting the natural heritage of our nation that they are considered to be of national

significance. To possess national significance, such an area must be a true, accurate, essentially unspoiled example of nature.

**National Recreation Trails:** Trails designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture as part of the national system of trails authorized by the National Trails System Act. National recreation trails provide a variety of outdoor recreation uses.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP):** A list of heritage resources that have local, state, or national significance maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

**National Wild and Scenic River System:** Rivers with outstanding scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values designated by Congress under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act for preservation of their free-flowing condition.

**National Wilderness Preservation System:** All lands covered by the Wilderness Act and subsequent wilderness designations, irrespective of the department or agency having jurisdiction.

**Native:** A plant or animal indigenous to a particular locality.

**Native Seed:** Seeds of plants considered indigenous to the Northern Great Plains.

**Natural:** Occurring in conformity with the ordinary course of nature. An area having undergone no, or at least minimal, disturbance by anthropogenic forces.

**Natural Area:** An area of land in which organisms and geological processes are undisturbed by humans, with as few controls as possible.

**Natural Barrier:** A natural feature that will restrict livestock movements, such as a dense stand of trees or downfall, or a feature that will stop the spread of fire, such as a talus slope, water course, or areas otherwise devoid of fuel.

**Natural Community:** A community uninfluenced by external factors.

**Natural Fuels:** Fuels resulting from natural processes and not directly generated or altered by land management practices.

**NCSS (National Cooperative Soil Survey):** A nationwide partnership of federal, regional, state, and local agencies and institutions. This partnership works to cooperatively investigate, inventory, document, classify, and interpret soils and disseminate, publish, and promote the use of information about soils of the United States.

**NEPA Process:** Means all measures necessary for compliance with the requirements of Section 2 and Title I of NEPA.

**Net Public Benefits:** An expression used to signify the overall long-term value to the nation of all outputs and positive effects (benefits) less all associated inputs and negative effects (costs) whether they can be quantitatively valued or not. Net public benefits are measured by both quantitative and qualitative criteria rather than a single measure or index. The maximization of net public benefits to be derived from management of units of the National Forest System, including national grasslands, is consistent with the principles of multiple use and sustained yield.

**Niche:** The ecological role of a species in a community.

**No Adverse Effect (Heritage Resources):** Any effect on a heritage resource that would not be considered harmful to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**No Effect (Heritage Resources):** No effect to those characteristics that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

**No Lease (Oil and Gas):** A decision not to lease until some future analysis determines the lands are available for leasing.

**No Surface Occupancy (NSO) (Oil and Gas):** A fluid mineral leasing stipulation that prohibits occupancy or disturbance on all or part of the land's surface to protect special values or uses. The NSO stipulation includes the following terminology: "no surface use/occupancy," "no surface disturbance," "conditional NSO," and "surface disturbance or surface occupancy restriction by location." The lessee may exploit the oil and gas or geothermal resources under leases restricted by this stipulation through use of directional drilling from sites outside NSO areas.

**No-Action Alternative:** An alternative that maintains established trends or management direction.

**Nonconsumptive Use:** Those resources that do not reduce the supply. Nonconsumptive uses of water include hydroelectric power generation, boating, swimming, etc.

**Non-extractive Use:** Use that does not remove a resource from its natural setting.

**Nongame Species:** Species of animals that are not managed as a hunting resource.

**Nonmotorized Activities:** Activities that do not incorporate the use of a motor, engine, or other nonliving power source. This includes such machines as aircraft, hovercraft, motorboats, automobiles, motor bikes, snowmobiles, bulldozers, chainsaws, rock drills, and generators.

**Nonpoint 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.

**Nonvertebrate Fossils:** The fossilized remains of anything that does not have a bony skeleton or backbone. Examples of nonvertebrate fossils include: plants, pollen, petrified wood, shellfish, snails, and bugs.

**Northern Region:** The Forest Service organizational unit consisting of Montana, northern Idaho, North Dakota, and northwestern South Dakota. Also known as Region 1.

**Not Administratively Available (Oil and Gas):** Decision that lands are not available for leasing. They are no longer considered for any type of leasing and no further decision is required concerning those lands.

**Notice of Intent:** Notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered. The notice briefly describes the proposed action and possible alternatives, the agency's scoping process, and the address and name of the agency to contact regarding questions about the proposed action and the environmental impact statement.

**Noxious Weeds:** Those plant species designated as weeds by federal or state laws. Noxious weeds generally possess one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to

manage, poisonous, toxic, parasitic, a carrier or host for serious insects or diseases, and generally non-native.

**Objective:** A concise, time-specific statement of measurable, planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and resources to be used in achieving identified goals.

**Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) or Off-Road Vehicle (ORV):** Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

**Offset Drilling:** To drill a well adjacent to a previously drilled well, usually in the adjacent spacing unit.

**Oil and Gas Lease:** A legal contract granting the right to explore for, develop and produce oil and gas resources for a specific period of time under certain agreed-upon terms and conditions.

**On-Top-the-Surface (Fossils):** Fossil resting on surface, collection requires no digging or prying to remove.

**Open Range:**

1. Range that has not been fenced into management units.
2. All suitable rangeland of an area upon which grazing is permitted.
3. Untimbered rangeland.
4. Range on which the livestock owner has unlimited access without benefit of land ownership or leasing.

**Operating Plan:** A written plan, approved by a forest officer and prepared by those engaged in mining activity on the national forest or national grassland. It covers prospecting, exploration, or extraction activities that will take place on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

**Operating Right (Oil and Gas):** The interest created out of a lease that authorizes the holder of that interest to enter upon the leased lands to conduct drilling and related operations, including production of oil and gas from such lands in accordance.

**Opportunity Cost:** A foregone value. In this analysis, it is a cost calculated as the difference between present net value of the alternative and the present net value (PNV) of the maximum PNV increment.

**Organism:** An individual or living thing.

**Outpost Well:** A well drilled a farther distance from a production well than a step-out well, but still on the same structural trend. The distance could be a couple of miles.

**Outputs:** The goods, end products, or services purchased, consumed, or utilized directly by people. Outputs are goods, services, products, and concerns produced by activities that are measurable and capable of being used to determine the effectiveness of programs and activities in meeting objectives. A broad term used to describe any result, product, or service that a process or activity actually produces.

**Overgrazing:** Continued heavy grazing that exceeds the recovery capacity of the community and creates a deteriorated range.

**Overstocking:** Placing a number of animals on a given area that will result in overuse if continued to the end of the planned grazing period.

**Overstory:** The portion of vegetation in a forest that forms the uppermost foliage layer.

**Paleontological Areas:** A unit of land that contains fossils of plants and animals, shellfish, early vertebrates, coal swamp forests, early reptiles, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric plants and animals.

**Paleontological Resources:** Fossil resources, including both body and trace fossils, of all groups of organisms (vertebrates, invertebrates, plants, pollen, and spores, etc.).

**Paleontology:** The study of life in past geologic times.

**Partially Active Prairie Dog Colony:** A prairie dog colony with a prairie dog density noticeably reduced due to recent poisoning, plague, or shooting.

**Particulates:** Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.

**Parturition Habitat:** Habitat used by big game species during the birthing season.

**Pasture:** A land area consisting of grass or other growing plants used as food by grazing animals. Also an area used for grazing, often enclosed and separated from other areas by fences, hedges, ditches, or walls.

**Patented Mining Claim:** A claim for which title has passed from the federal government to the mining claimant under the Mining Law of 1872.

**Patent:** The instrument with which the federal government grants public lands to an individual. A land patent is muniment of title issued by the federal government for the conveyance of some portion of the public domain under the 1872 Mining Law.

**Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT):** Payments to local or state governments based on ownership of federal land and not directly dependent upon production of outputs or receipt sharing. Specifically, they include payments made under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes Act of 1976.

**Perennial Plant:** A plant that lives for two or more years.

**Perennial Streams:** Streams that flow continuously throughout most years.

**Permitted Grazing:** Use of a National Forest System range allotment under the terms of a grazing permit.

**Permittee (Grazing):** One who holds a permit to graze livestock on state, federal, or certain privately owned lands.

**Perimeter Control:** A strategy that seeks to confine the active zone that is responsible for fire spread. Actual fireline location (i.e., direct vs indirect) will be selected to minimize the combined cost of suppression and the values that could be lost in a fire. The benefits of fire's effects may also be used to determine location.

**Person-Year:** The amount of work done by one person working all year or several people working a portion of a year. Approximately 2,000 working hours.

**Persons at One Time (PAOT):** A recreational capacity measurement indicating the number of people who can use a facility or area at one time.

**Pesticide:** A chemical agent formulated to kill or suppress insects, plants, or animals.

**pH:** The degree of acidity or alkalinity.

**Pioneer Species:** The first species or community to colonize or recolonize a barren or disturbed area in primary or secondary succession.

**Pitting:** Making shallow pits or basins of suitable capacity and distribution on range to reduce overland flow from rainfall and snowmelt.

**Plain:** A broad stretch of relatively level, treeless land.

**Plan of Operations:** A written plan describing mining and mineral processing activities that will likely cause a significant surface disturbance. The plan is prepared by those engaged in activities, such as prospecting, exploration, or mining, in the national forest or national grassland. This plan must be approved by a Forest Officer.

**Planned Ignitions:** A fire started by a deliberate management action under an approved plan to meet specific resource objectives.

**Planning Area:** The area of the National Forest System, including national grasslands, covered by a Regional or Forest Plan.

**Planning Criteria:** Standards, tests, rules, and guidelines by which the planning process is conducted and upon which judgments and decisions are based.

**Planning Horizon:** The overall time period considered in the planning process that spans all activities covered in the analysis or plan and all future conditions and effects of proposed actions that would influence the planning decisions. In the National Forest System planning process, this is 150 years.

**Planning Period:** A time interval for which inputs and outputs are identified in a planning process. Current RPA and National Forest Plan intervals are five and ten years, respectively.

**Planning Records:** Documents and files that contain detailed information and decisions made in developing the Forest Plan. Available at the Forest Supervisor's Office.

**Planning Questions:** A major policy question of long-range significance, derived from the public issues and management concerns, to be addressed when selecting among alternative Forest plans.

**Plant Associations:** A grouping of plants that have reached dynamic equilibrium with the local environmental conditions; equivalent to climax. On site, there is no evidence of replacement by other dominant plant species, and there is no evidence of serious disturbances.

**Plant Communities:** Assemblages of plant species living in an area. A plant community is an organized unit to the extent that it has characteristics in addition to the individuals and populations and functions as a unit.

**Potential Natural Community (PNC):** A taxonomic unit of vegetation classification. The biotic community that would be established under present environmental conditions if all successional sequences were completed without additional human-caused disturbances. Natural disturbances, such as drought, flood, wildfire, grazing by native fauna, and insect and disease infestations, are inherent in the development of potential natural communities, which may include naturalized, non-native species.

**Prairie:** A tract of level to hilly land that has a dominance of grasses and forbs, has a scarcity of shrubs, and is treeless. The natural plant community consists of various mixtures of tallgrass, mid-grass, and short-grass plant species.

**Precambrian:** All geologic time and its corresponding rocks before the beginning of the Paleozoic; it is equivalent to about 90 percent of geologic time.

**Preferred Alternative:** The alternative recommended for implementation in the Forest Plan based on the evaluation completed in the planning process.

**Prehistoric Site:** Archeology sites associated with American Indians and usually occurring before contact with Europeans.

**Prescribed Burning:** Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified environmental conditions, that allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and, at the same time, to produce the fireline intensity and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

**Prescribed Fire:** A fire burning within prescription, resulting from planned or unplanned ignition.

**Prescription (Fire Management):** A written statement defining objectives to be attained as well as temperature, humidity, wind direction and speed, fuel-moisture content, and soil moisture under which the fire will be allowed to burn. Generally expressed as acceptable ranges of the various indices and the limit of the geographic area to be covered.

**Present Net Value (PNV):** The difference between the discounted value (benefits) of all outputs to which monetary values or established market prices are assigned and the total discounted costs of managing the planning area.

**Present Net Worth:** The discounted value of price times the quantity less the cost.

**Prevention of Significant Deterioration of Air Quality (PSD):** A classification established to preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in National Wilderness Preservation System areas in existence prior to August 1977 and other areas of national significance, while ensuring economic growth in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources. Specific emission limitations and other measures, by class, are detailed in the Clean Air Act.

**Primary Range:** Areas that animals prefer to use and over which they will graze when management is limited. The area on which overuse will occur before secondary range is used when animals are allowed to shift for themselves.

**Primitive Area:** All areas so designated by the Secretary of Agriculture on the effective date of the Wilderness Act and that have not yet been permanently designated as Wilderness or to other use by act of Congress.

**Production Pit:**

1. A pit on an oil and/or gas well location after well completion.
2. A pit associated with the production of oil or gas.

**Productivity:** The total quantity of organic material produced within a given period by organisms or the energy that this represents, such as gram-calories per square centimeter per year.

The innate capacity of an environment to produce plant and animal life. The capacity of a soil to produce a certain kind of crop under a defined set of management conditions.

**Products Other than Logs (POL):** Products such as posts, poles, and fiber from trees or parts of trees that are less than sawlog size. POL usually include trees greater than five inches diameter at breast height and less than 7.9 inches diameter at breast height, with the tops of the trees greater than four inches to less than six inches.

**Program Development and Budgeting:** The process by which activities for the national forest or national grassland are proposed and funded.

**Programmatic EIS:** An area-wide EIS that provides an overview when a large-scale plan is being prepared for the management of federally administered lands on a regional or multi-regional basis. A programmatic EIS is a necessary analysis of the affected environment and the potential cumulative effects of the reasonably foreseeable actions under that program or within that geographical area. Analyses of lesser scope or more site-specificity may be tiered to the analysis in a programmatic EIS.

**Proper Functioning Condition (PFC):** Riparian/wetland areas achieve proper functioning condition when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows. This reduces erosion; improves water quality; filters sediment; captures bedload; aids floodplain development; improves floodwater retention and groundwater recharge; develops root masses that stabilize streambanks against cutting action; develops diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide habitat and water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses; and supports greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian/wetland areas is a result of the interaction among geology, soil, water, and vegetation.

**Proposed Action:** In terms of the National Environmental Policy Act, the project, activity, or action that a federal agency intends to implement or undertake and which is the subject of an environmental analysis.

**Proposed Species:** Any species of fish, wildlife, or plant that is proposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service for listing as threatened or endangered.

**Proposed Critical Habitat:** Habitat proposed for designation to benefit any listed or proposed species. Notice of proposed critical habitat appears in the Federal Register.

**Province:** A continuous geographic area wherein species composition, both plant and animal, is more homogenous than between adjacent areas.

**Public:** The people of an area, state, or nation that can be grouped together by a commonality of interests, values, beliefs, or life-style.

**Public Access:** Usually refers to a road or trail route over which a public agency has secured a right-of-way for public use.

**Public Involvement:** A Forest Service process designed to broaden the information base upon which agency decisions are made. It includes the following steps:

1. Informing the public of Forest Service activities, plans, and decisions.
2. Encouraging public understanding about the participation in the planning processes that lead to final decision-making.

**Public Issue:** A subject or question of widespread public interest identified through public participation relating to management of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

**Range:** Any land supporting vegetation suitable for grazing including rangeland, grazable woodland, and shrubland.

**Range Allotment:** A designated area of land available for livestock grazing upon which a specified number and kind of livestock may be grazed under a range allotment management plan. It is the basic land unit used to facilitate management of the range resource on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, and other associated lands administered by the Forest Service.

**Range Analysis:** Systematic acquisition and evaluation of rangeland resources data needed for allotment management planning and overall land management.

**Range Betterment Funds:** Funds established by Title IV, section 401 (b)(1), of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to be used for range improvement. This consists of 50 percent of all money received by the United States as fees for grazing livestock on the national forest and national grasslands in the 16 contiguous western states.

**Range Condition:**

1. A rangeland is considered to be in satisfactory condition when the desired condition is being met or short-term vegetative objectives are being achieved to move the rangeland toward the desired condition or trend. Unsatisfactory condition is when the desired condition is not being met and short-term vegetative objectives are not being achieved to move the rangeland toward the desired condition or trend.
2. Historically, range condition usually has been defined in one of two ways: a) a generic term relating to present status of a unit of range in terms of specific values or potentials. Specific values or potentials must be stated; b) the present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant for the site.

**Range Improvement, Nonstructural:** Any practice designed to improve range condition or facilitate more efficient utilization of the range.

**Range Improvement, Structural:** Any structure or excavation to facilitate management of range or livestock.

**Range Management:** The art and science of planning and directing range use to obtain sustained maximum animal production, consistent with perpetuation of the natural resources. Two kinds of range management can be described:

- **Extensive range management** carries the goal to control livestock numbers within the present capacity of the range, but little or no attempt is made to achieve uniform distribution of livestock. Range management investments are minimal and only to the extent needed to maintain stewardship of the range in the presence of grazing. Past resource damage is corrected and resources are protected from natural catastrophes.
- **Intensive range management** carries the goal to maintain full plant vigor and to achieve full livestock utilization of available forage. This goal is achieved through

implementation of improved grazing systems and construction and installation of range improvements. Cultural practices, such as seeding and fertilizing, to improve forage quality and quantity may be used.

**Rangeland:** Lands on which the native vegetation is predominately grasses, grass-like plants, forbs, or shrubs suitable for grazing or browsing usage. Includes lands revegetated naturally or artificially to provide a forage cover that is managed like native vegetation.

**Rangeland Health:** The degree to which the integrity of the soil and the ecological processes of rangeland ecosystems are sustained.

**Ranger District:** Administrative subdivision of the national forest or national grassland supervised by a district ranger who reports to a forest supervisor.

**RARE II:** See Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II.

**Rare Communities:** A ranking system used by The Nature Conservancy to assess relative endangerment. Community types are ranked on a global, national, and state scale of 1 to 5. A rank of G1 (Global 1) indicates that a community type is critically imperiled globally to rarity, endemism, and/or threats. A rank of G5 indicates little to no risk of global elimination. Similar definitions apply to national and state rankings.

**Rate of Spread (Fire Management):** Relative activity of a fire in extending its horizontal dimensions for a specified period in the fire's history. Expressed as rate of increase of the perimeter, rate of increase in area, or rate of advance of its head, depending on the intended use of the information. Generally units are in chains or acres per hour.

**Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) (Oil and Gas):** A projection of likely exploration, development, and production of oil and gas within a study area based on existing and credible geologic data, technology, economics, and activity trends.

**Receipts:** Money collected from timber stumpage, livestock grazing, campground fees, special-use permits, and oil and gas lease rentals and royalties and returned to the federal treasury.

**Reclamation:** Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced, often in conformity with a predetermined reclamation plan.

**Reconstruction:** Construction activities performed on an existing facility. Reconstruction includes those activities that alter the facility from its originally constructed or subsequently reconstructed condition.

**Record of Decision:** 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.

**Recovery Plan:** Identifies, justifies, and schedules the research and management actions necessary to reverse the decline of a species and ensure its long-term survival.

**Recreation Capacity:** The number of people who can take advantage of the supply of recreational opportunities at one time without substantially diminishing the quality of the recreational experience or the area's resources.

**Recreation Development Scale:** Classification of the development level in camp and picnic sites that describes the types of recreational opportunities and modifications to the environment that can be expected. The levels, from 1 to 5, are listed below:

1. **Minimum Site Modification:** Rustic or rudimentary improvements are designed for protection of the site rather than the comfort of users. Use of synthetic materials are excluded. Minimum controls are subtle. Spacing is informal and extended to minimize contacts between users. Motorized access is not provided or permitted.
2. **Little Site Modification:** Rustic or rudimentary improvements are designed primarily for protection of the site rather than the comfort of users. Use of synthetic materials is avoided. Minimum controls are subtle. Little obvious regimentation is visible. Spacing is informal and extended to minimize contacts between users. Motorized access is provided or permitted. The primary access is over primitive roads. Interpretive services are informal, almost subliminal.
3. **Site Modification Moderate:** Facilities provide approximately equal protection for the site and comfort for users. Contemporary or rustic design of improvements is usually based on the use of native materials. Inconspicuous vehicular controls are usually provided. Roads may be hard-surfaced and trails formalized. Development density is about three family units per acre. The primary access may be over high-standard roads. Interpretative services are informal, but generally direct.
4. **Site Heavily Modified:** Some facilities are designed strictly for comfort and convenience of users. Luxury facilities are not provided. Facility design may incorporate synthetic materials. Artificial surfacing of roads and trails is used extensively. Vehicle traffic controls are usually obvious. The primary access is usually over paved roads. Development density is about three to five family units per acre. Plant materials are usually native. Interpretive services are often formal or structured.
5. **High Degree of Site Modification:** Facilities are mostly designed for comfort and convenience of users and usually include flush toilets. Showers, bathhouses, laundry facilities, and electrical hook-ups may also be included. Synthetic materials are commonly used. Formal walkways or surfaced trails are evident. The regimentation of users is obvious. Access is usually by high-speed highways. Development density is five or more family units per acre. Plant materials may be foreign to the environment. Formal interpretive services are usually available. Designs are formalized and architecture may be contemporary. Mowed lawns and clipped shrubs are not unusual.

**Recreation Information Management (RIM):** The Forest Service system for recording recreation facility condition and use.

**Recreation Opportunity:** Availability of a real choice for a user to participate in a preferred activity within a preferred setting in order to realize desired experiences.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS):** A system for planning and managing recreational resources that categorizes recreational opportunities into eight classes (listed below). Each class is defined in terms of the degree to which it satisfies certain recreational experience needs based on the extent to which the natural environment has been modified, the type of facilities provided, the degree of outdoor skills needed to enjoy the area, and the relative density of recreation use.

1. **Primitive:** The area is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Interaction between users is very low and evidence of other users is

- minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.
2. **Semi-primitive Nonmotorized:** The area is characterized by a predominately natural or natural-appearing environment of moderate to large size. Interaction between users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but would be subtle. Motorized recreation is not permitted, but local roads used for other resource management activities may be present on a limited basis. Use of such roads is restricted to minimize impacts on recreational opportunities.
  3. **Semi-primitive Motorized:** The area is characterized by a predominately natural or natural appearing environment of moderate to large size. The concentration of users is low, but there is often evidence of other users. The area is managed in such a way that minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present, but would be subtle. Motorized use of local primitive or collector roads with predominately natural surfaces and trails suitable for motor bikes is permitted.
  4. **Roaded Natural:** The area is characterized by predominately natural-appearing environments with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Such evidence is usually harmonious with the natural environment. Interaction between users may be moderate to high, with evidence of other users prevalent. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident but compatible with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is allowed and incorporated into construction standards and design of facilities.
  5. **Roaded Natural Nonmotorized:** The area is closed to motorized use, yet has been heavily modified or is not large enough to be set aside as semi-primitive nonmotorized.
  6. **Roaded Modified:** An area characterized by a natural environment that has been substantially modified by structure and vegetative manipulation. No on-site facilities are present except signing at major road junctions. Moderate evidence of other users on roads is present. Minimal site controls of users are present, except for gated roads.
  7. **Rural:** The area is characterized by a natural environment that has been substantially modified by development of structures, vegetative manipulation, or pastoral agricultural development. Resource modification and utilization practices may be used to enhance specific recreational activities and to maintain vegetative cover and soil. Sights and sounds of humans are readily evident, and the interaction between users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for special activities. Moderate user densities are present away from developed sites. Facilities for intensified motorized use and parking are available.
  8. **Urban:** The area is characterized by a substantially urbanized environment, although the background may have natural-appearing elements. Renewable resource modification and utilization practices are often used to enhance specific recreational activities. Vegetative cover is often exotic and manicured. Sights and sounds of humans are predominant on the site. Large numbers of users can be expected both on the site and in nearby areas. Facilities for highly intensified motor use and parking are available, with forms of mass transit often available to carry people throughout the site.

**Recreation Visitor Day (RVD):** A unit for measuring recreational activities, which aggregates 12 visitor hours. This may consist of one person for 12 hours, 12 persons for one hour, or any

equivalent combination of continuous or intermittent recreation use by individuals or groups. RVDs are used to measure recreational production or output capacity.

**Recreational Livestock Use:** The use of an area with animals, such as horses and mules, in conjunction with recreation, like horseback riding.

**Recreational Residence:** A house or cabin on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, used seasonally for recreation, but not the primary residence of the owner.

**Reforestation:** The renewal of forest cover by seeding, planting, and natural means.

**Refugia:** Areas that have not been exposed to great environmental changes and disturbances undergone by the region as a whole. Refugia provide conditions suitable for survival of species that may be declining elsewhere.

**Regeneration:** The renewal of a tree crop, whether by natural or artificial means. This term may also refer to the crop itself.

**Region:** An administrative unit within the National Forest System, which includes national grasslands. The United States is divided into nine geographic regions. Each region has a head-quarter office and is supervised by a regional forester. Each region contains national forests and sometimes national grasslands or other lands administered by the Forest Service.

**Regional Forester:** The official responsible for administering a single region.

**Regional Guide:** A document developed to meet the requirements of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Act of 1974, as amended, that guides all natural resource management activities and established management standards and guidelines for National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, in a given Region. This management direction is applied to the national forests and national grasslands within that Region.

**Rehabilitation:** Actions taken to restore or reclaim site productivity, water quality, or other values.

**Relict:** A remnant or fragment of the climax plant community that remains from a former period when it was more widely distributed.

**Renewable Resources:** Resources that can be used indefinitely when the use rate does not exceed the ability to renew the supply. However, in the RPA program, the term is used to describe those matters within the scope of the responsibilities and authorities of the Forest Service as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974. Consequently, the renewable resources include: timber, range, minerals, wildlife and fish, water, recreation, and Wilderness.

**Research Natural Area (RNA):** A physical or biological unit in which current natural conditions are maintained insofar as possible. These conditions are ordinarily achieved by allowing natural physical and biological processes to prevail without human intervention. However, under unusual circumstances, deliberate manipulation may be utilized to maintain the unique feature that the RNA was established to protect.

**Resource Values:** The tangible and intangible worth of forest and grassland resources.

**Responsible Official:** The Forest Service employee who has the delegated authority to make a specific decision.

**Rest:** To leave an area of rangeland ungrazed by livestock or unharvested by mechanical methods for at least one year (12 consecutive months, including one growing season).

**Rest Rotation (Livestock Grazing):** An intensive system of management where grazing is deferred on various parts of the range during succeeding years, allowing the deferred part complete rest for one year. At least two, but usually three or more, separate grazing units are required.

**Restoration:** Holistic actions taken to modify an ecosystem to achieve desired, healthy, and functioning conditions and processes. Generally refers to the process of enabling the system to resume its resiliency to disturbances.

**Revegetation:** The reestablishment and development of plant cover. This may take place naturally through the reproductive processes of the existing flora or artificially through reforestation or reseeding.

**Revision Topics:** Major focus areas for land and resource management plan revision identified through the public involvement and the need for change.

**Rhizome:** A horizontal underground stem, usually sending out roots and above-ground shoots from the nodes.

**Rights-of-Way:**

1. Land authorized to be used or occupied for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project or facility passing over, upon, under, or through such land (36 CFR 251.51).
2. The privilege that one person or persons particularly described may have of passing over the land of another in some particular line.

**Riparian:** The bands and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps, and springs whose waters provide soil moisture in excess of what is locally available. This results in a more moist habitat than that found on the contiguous flood plains and uplands. Refers to land bordering a stream, lake, or tidewater, and generally implies a particular type of habitat physiognomy often characterized by an overstory of trees or other large woody plants with a complex understory of other woody and/or herbaceous species.

**Riparian Area:** Areas of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems with distinctive resource values and characteristics that be geographically delineated (FSM 2526). Ecological units with distinctive vegetation, landform, soil, and water regimes consisting of the aquatic ecosystem and wet-to-moist areas located between aquatic ecosystems and adjacent terrestrial ecosystems. Includes floodplains and wetlands. Riparian ecosystems are distinguished by soil characteristics and distinctive existing or potential vegetation communities that are adapted to soils with consistently high levels of moisture.

**Riparian Communities:** Repeating, classified, defined, and recognizable assemblages of plant or animal communities associated with riparian areas.

**Riparian Ecosystem:** A transition between the aquatic ecosystem and the adjacent upland terrestrial ecosystem. It is identified by soil characteristics and by distinctive vegetative communities that require free or unbounded water.

**Ripping:** The mechanical penetration and shearing of range soils to depths of 8 to 18 inches for the purpose of breaking hardpan layers to facilitate penetration of plant roots, water, organic

matter, and nutrients. A range improvement practice used where native grasses of a rhizomatous nature can be spread into the ripped soil.

**Risk Assessment:** Process of gathering data and making assumptions to estimate short- and long-term harmful effects on human health or the environment from particular products or activities.

**Risk Index (Fire Management):** A number related to the probability of an ignition.

**Road:** A general term denoting a way with at least two-wheel tracks for purposes of travel by vehicles greater than 50 inches in width.

**Road Credits:** Credits earned by timber purchasers and which are applied toward the sale price of timber in exchange for building the roads needed for access.

**Road Density:** Road density refers to the miles of road per square mile. There are different road densities depending on what road types are being considered.

- **Forest Development Road Density:** The miles of Forest Development Roads per square mile. This is the road density of the road system managed by the Forest Service for resource management.
- **Open Road Density:** The miles of Forest Development Roads and other private and public roads and highways open for public travel.
- **Wheel-track Density:** The miles of established wheel tracks per square mile. Wheel tracks are not managed as part of the Forest Development Road System and are formed by repeated travel off system roads by users.

**Road Functional Classification:** The way in which a road services land and resource management needs and the character of services it provides. Functional classifications for roads include the following:

- **Forest Arterial Road:** Provides service to large land areas and usually connects with public highways or other Forest Service arterial roads to form an integrated network of primary travel routes. The location and standard are often determined by a demand for maximum mobility and travel efficiency rather than specific resource management service. It is usually developed and operated for long-term land and resource management purposes and constant service.
- **Forest Collector Road:** Serves smaller land areas than a Forest Arterial Road and is usually connected to a Forest Arterial Road or public highway. Collects traffic from Forest Local Roads and/or terminal facilities. The location and standard are influenced by both long-term multi-resource service needs, as well as travel efficiency. May be operated for either constant or intermittent service, depending on land use and resource management objectives for the area served.
- **Forest Local Road:** Connects terminal facilities with Forest Collector or Forest Arterial Roads or public highways. The location and standard are usually controlled by a specific resource activity rather than travel efficiency. Forest Local Roads may be developed and operated for either long- or short-term service.

**Road Maintenance Level:** Defines the level of service provided by, and maintenance required for, a specific road, consistent with road management objectives and maintenance criteria. There are five maintenance levels:

- **Maintenance Level 1:** Assigned to intermittent service roads during the time they are closed to vehicular traffic. The closure period is one year or longer. Basic custodial maintenance is performed.
- **Maintenance Level 2:** Assigned to roads open for use by high-clearance vehicles. Passenger car traffic is not a consideration.
- **Maintenance 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.
- **Maintenance Level 4:** Assigned to roads that provide a moderate degree of user comfort and convenience at moderate travel speeds.
- **Maintenance Level 5:** Assigned to roads that provide a high degree of user comfort and convenience. Normally, roads are double-laned and paved or aggregate-surfaced with dust abatement.

**Road Prism:** Equivalent to the term "roadway." The portion of the road within the limits of excavation and embankment, including slope rounding. A similar term is "road template," the shape and cross-sectional dimensions of the roadway to be constructed as defined by the construction staking notes and the characteristics of the typical sections.

**Roadless Area:** An area in a national forest or national grassland with the following characteristics:

1. Larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller, contiguous to a designated Wilderness or primitive area, or lies east of the 100th Meridian and therefore under the jurisdiction of the Eastern Wilderness Act.
2. Does not contain improved roads maintained for travel by standard passenger-type vehicles.
3. Has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System.

**Roadless Area Review and Evaluation II (RARE II):** A comprehensive process, instituted in June 1977, to identify roadless and undeveloped land areas in the National Forest System, including national grasslands, and to develop alternatives for both Wilderness and other resource management.

**Roadless Inventory:** Roadless areas identified by following the inventory criteria listed in FSH 1909.12 Chapter 7.

**Roadside Corridor:** A passageway that frames a road or travelway. The corridor includes the viewing area and facilities, which may be within the immediate roadside area or part of a sweeping distance panorama.

**Rocky Mountain Region:** The Forest Service organizational units consisting of Colorado, Wyoming, part of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. Also known as Region 2.

**Rodenticide:** A chemical agent formulated to kill rodents.

**Rotation:** The planned number of years between the formation or regeneration of a crop or stand and its final cutting at a specified stage of maturity.

**Rotation Grazing:** A grazing scheme where animals are moved from one grazing unit (paddock) in the same group of grazing units to another without regard to specific graze/rest periods or levels of plant defoliation.

**RPA Assessment and Program:** The RPA Assessment is prepared every 10 years and describes the potential of the nation's forests and rangelands to provide a sustained flow of goods and services. The RPA Program is prepared every five years to chart the long-term course of Forest Service management of the national forests and national grasslands, assistance to state and private landowners, and research. An RPA Assessment and Program are prepared in response to Sections 3 and 4 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974.

**Runoff:** The total stream discharge of water, including both surface and subsurface flow, usually expressed in acre-feet of water yield.

**Rural Development:** A partnership or program designed to enrich the cultural life, enhance the environment, provide employment, and improve living conditions in rural America.

**Savanna:** A grassland with scattered trees, either as individuals or clumps. Often a transitional type between true grassland and forest.

**Scenery:** General appearance of a place, a landscape, or features of a landscape.

**Scenery Management:** The art and science of arranging, planning, and designing landscape attributes relative to the appearance of place and expanses in outdoor settings.

**Scenic Area:** A unit of land with outstanding natural beauty that requires special management to preserve this beauty.

**Scenic Attractiveness:** The scenic importance of a landscape based on human perceptions of the intrinsic beauty of landform, rockform, waterform, and vegetation pattern. Reflects varying visual perception attributes of variety, unity, vividness, intactness, coherence, mystery, uniqueness, harmony, balance, and pattern.

- **A - Distinctive:** Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide unusual, unique, or outstanding scenic quality. These landscapes have strong positive attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony uniqueness, pattern, and balance.
- **B - Typical:** Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural features combine to provide ordinary or common scenic quality. These landscapes have generally positive, yet common attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony uniqueness, pattern, and balance. Normally they would form the basic matrix within the ecological unit.
- **C - Indistinctive:** Areas where landform, vegetation patterns, water characteristics, and cultural land uses have low scenic quality. Often water and rockform of any consequence are missing in class C landscapes. These landscapes have weak or missing attributes of variety, unity, vividness, mystery, intactness, order, harmony uniqueness, pattern, and balance.

**Scenic Class:** A system of classification describing the importance or value of a particular landscape or portions of that landscape.

**Scenic Integrity (Existing or Objective):** State of naturalness or, conversely, the state of disturbance created by human activities or alteration. Integrity is stated in degrees of deviation from the existing landscape character in a national grassland or forest. The scenic integrity levels are:

**Very High:** (Unaltered) Preservation

This level 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:** (Appears Unaltered) Retention

This level 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:** (Slightly Altered) Partial retention

This level refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears slightly altered." Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed.

**Low:** (Moderately Altered) Modification

This level refers to landscapes 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, 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:** (Heavily Altered) Maximum modification

This level 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, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside of the landscape being viewed. However deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so that elements such as roads, and structures do not dominate the composition.

**Unacceptably Low:**

This level refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character being viewed appears extremely altered. Deviations are extremely dominate and borrow little if any form, line, color, texture, pattern or scale from the landscape character. Landscapes at this level of integrity need rehabilitation.

**Scenic Easement:** An interest in the land that allows the easement holder specified uses or rights without actual ownership of the land; in this case, control of the use of land adjacent to public highways, parks, and rivers. It may provide something attractive to look at within the easement area, an open area to view something attractive beyond the easement itself, or a screen to block out an unsightly view beyond the easement area.

**Scenic Resource:** Attributes, characteristics, and features of landscapes that provide varying responses from, and varying degrees of benefits to, humans.

**Scoping Process:** An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to the proposed action. Identifying the

significant environmental issues deserving of study and de-emphasizing insignificant issues narrows the scope of the environmental impact statement accordingly.

**Scoria:** Porcellanite, one of the saleable minerals. Used widely for surfacing roads. A natural by-product of prehistoric burning of coal and shale beds.

**Season-long Grazing (Livestock Grazing):** Allowing livestock to graze a single pasture throughout one growing season.

**Secondary Range:** Range that is lightly used or unused by livestock under minimal management and will ordinarily not be fully used until the primary range has been overused.

**Sediment:** Material suspended in water or deposited in streams and lakes.

**Sediment Load:** The solid material transported by a stream and expressed as the dry weight of all sediment that passes a given point in a given period of time.

**Sediment Yield:** Amount of sediment leaving an analysis area and entering a channel.

**Seeps:** A spot where water or petroleum flows from the earth, often forming the source of a small stream.

**Self-sustaining Fish Population:** A reproducing fish population that does not require supplemental hatchery stocking.

**Sensitive Species:** Those plant and animal species identified by Regional Foresters for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by the following:

- Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.
- Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

**Sensitivity Level (Visuals):** A measure of people's concern for the scenic quality of the national forests and national grasslands. Three sensitivity levels are employed, each identifying a different level of user concern for the visual environment: Level 1 (highest sensitivity), Level 2 (average sensitivity), and Level 3 (lowest sensitivity).

**Seral (Ecology):** A biotic community that is in a developmental, transitory stage in an ecological succession.

**Seral Stages (Ecology):** The sequence of a plant community's successional stages to potential natural vegetation.

**Sere:** The series of stages that follow one another in an ecologic succession. A series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given area of the earth's surface.

**Severely Burned Soil:** A condition in which most woody debris and the entire forest or grassland floor is consumed down to bare mineral soil. Soil may have turned red due to extreme heat. Also, fine roots and organic matter are charred in the upper one-half inch of mineral soil.

**Short-term Transportation Facility:** A facility developed and operated for a limited period of time that will cease to exist as a transportation facility after the purpose for which it was constructed is completed and the occupied land is reclaimed and managed for natural resource purposes.

**Significant Archeological Sites:** Sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the Forest Service in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

**Silviculture:** Generally, the science and art of tree management, based on the study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands, with particular reference to local factors. More particularly, the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forests for desired conditions.

**Site Productivity:** Production capability of specific areas of land.

**Snag:** A standing dead tree or standing portion from which at least the leaves and smaller branches have fallen. Often called a stub if it is less than 20 feet tall.

**Social Analysis:** An analysis of the social (as distinct from the economic and environmental) effects of a given plan or proposal for action. Social analysis includes identification and evaluation of all pertinent desirable and undesirable consequences to all segments of society.

**Soil Compaction:** A physical change in soil properties that results in a decrease in porosity and an increase in soil bulk density and strength.

**Soil Erosion:** The detachment and movement of soil from the land surface by water or wind. Soil erosion and sediment are not the same.

**Soil Productivity:** The inherent capacity of a soil to support the growth of specified plants, plant communities, or a sequence of plant communities. Soil productivity may be expressed in terms of volume or weight/unit area/year, percent plant cover, or other measures of biomass accumulation.

**Soil Profile:** A vertical section of the soil from the surface down through all of its layers into the parent material.

**Soil Survey:** A general term for the systematic examination of soils in the field and in laboratories; their description and classification; the mapping of soils types; the interpretation of soils according to their adaptability for various crops, grasses, and trees; their response to treatment for plant production or for other purposes; and their productivity under different management systems.

**Soil Surveys:** The systematic examination, description, classification, and mapping of soils in an area.

**Special Stipulations:** Terms and conditions of use attached to leases, where needed, to protect specific resources or uses on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

**Special-use Application:** A written request for use of National Forest System lands, including national grasslands.

**Special-use Permits:** A permit, term permit, lease, or easement that allows occupancy, use, rights, or privileges on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands (36 CFR 261.2).

**Special Interest Area:** Place with unusual scenic, historic, prehistoric, scientific, natural, or other special interest which merits special attention and management.

**Special Uses:** Improvements or activities owned or carried out by private individuals, corporations, or other business entities on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, under the authorization of a permit.

**Species:** A group of potentially interbreeding populations that are reproductively isolated from other such groups.

**Species at Risk:** Plant and animal species currently protected under the Endangered Species Act.

**Species Diversity:** A measurement that relates the density of individuals of a species in a habitat to the number of different species present in the habitat. The number of different kinds of species in a given habitat.

**Species of Concern:** Plant and animal species extirpated from areas within their current range. Some of these species may already be candidates for protection under the Endangered Species Act.

**Split-estate (Minerals):** Lands where the surface estate is owned by one entity and the mineral estate is owned by another.

**Stabilization (Heritage Resources):** Arresting the deterioration of a damaged heritage resource in order to prevent further damage from occurring. Stabilization may include reconstructing portions of the heritage resource.

**Stand:** A community of trees or other vegetative growth occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in species composition, age, spatial arrangement, and conditions as to be distinguishable from the other growth on adjoining lands, so forming a silvicultural or management entity.

**Standard:** A mandatory requirement, according to the Regional Desk Guide. Mandatory adherence to standards is the most important feature distinguishing standards from desired condition statements.

**State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO):** A person appointed by a state's governor to administer the State Historic Preservation Program.

**Step-out Well:** A well drilled adjacent to or near a proven well to ascertain the limits of the oil or gas reservoir. An outpost is a well drilled a farther distance (a couple of miles) from a step-out well, but still on the same structural trend.

**Stewardship:** Caring for land and associated resources and passing healthy ecosystems to future generations.

**Stipulation (Oil and Gas):** A provision that modifies standard lease rights attached to and made a part of the lease.

**Stocking Rate (Livestock Management):** The actual number of animals, expressed in either animal units or animal unit months, on a specific area for a specific time.

**Stockpond:** A water impoundment made by constructing a dam, excavating a dugout, or both. Its purpose is to provide water for livestock and wildlife.

**Stream Health:** The condition of a stream, relative to robust health, for that stream type and landscape, considering indicators such as channel pattern, slope, particle size, pool frequency

and depth, bank vegetation, and woody debris, which reflect the stability and habitat quality of the stream.

**Stream Order:** A classification of the relative position of streams in a channel network. Each nonbranching channel segment is designated as a first-order stream. The channel segment below the confluence of the two first-order streams is designated a second-order stream. A second-order stream has only first-order tributaries. The channel segment below the confluence of two second-order streams is designated a third-order stream, etc.

**Stream Type:** A class of stream reach having a discrete combination of valley geomorphology and climate, flow regime, stream size, and channel morphology, which differs from other stream types in its ability to support biota and respond to management.

**Structural Stages (Silviculture):** Any of several developmental stages of tree stands described in terms of tree age and the extent of canopy closure they create.

- **Structural Stage 1 (Grass/Forb):** Forest openings created by disturbances, such as fire or windthrow. Meadows and prairies are also modeled as grass/forb, although succession will not move beyond this stage.
- **Structural Stage 2 (Shrubs/Seedlings):** Developmental stage dominated by tree seedlings (less than one-inch diameter breast height) and shrub species.
- **Structural Stage 3 (Sapling/Pole):** Developmental stage dominated by young trees up to seven inches diameter breast height, 10 to 50 feet tall, and usually less than 50 years old. This stage is subdivided into three canopy closure classes: a) less than 40 percent, b) 40 to 70 percent, and c) greater than 70 percent.
- **Structural Stage 4 (Mature):** Consists of trees larger and older than Structural Stage 3. Also classified by the same canopy closure categories as Structural Stage 3.
- **Structural Stage 5 (Old Growth):** This structural stage is characterized by trees 160 years of age and older.

**Submarginal Land:** Land that is either physically or economically incapable of indefinitely sustaining a certain use.

**Subsection (Ecological):** An ecological unit which is characterized by combination of climate, geomorphic process, topography, and stratigraphy.

**Subspecies:** A genetically distinct subunit of a species.

**Succession:** The progress of vegetational development where different plant communities successively occupy an area.

**Successional Stages (Seral Stages):** The relatively transitory communities that replace one another during development toward a potential natural community.

**Suitable Lands:** Lands that are appropriate for the application of certain resource management practices as determined by an analysis of the economic and environmental consequences and the alternative uses foregone.

**Sundry Notice (Oil and Gas):** Standard form to notify and/or approve well operations subsequent to an Application to Permit to Drill in accordance with Forest Service regulations.

**Suppress a Fire:** To extinguish a fire or contain it within specified boundaries.

**Surface Occupancy (Minerals):** The occupancy of the surface with mining activities. When approved, occupancy will be identified in the operation plan.

**Suspended Sediment:** The very fine soil particles that remain suspended in water for a considerable period of time without contact with the bottom of the channel.

**Sustainability:** Continuation of a desired level of productivity, quality, or variability, generally of organisms.

**Sustained Yield:** The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources on National Forest System lands, including national grasslands, without impairment of the productivity of the land.

**Swale:** An area of low and sometimes wet land.

**Tailings (Minerals):** The parts or a part of any incoherent or fluid material separated as refuse or separately treated as inferior in quality or value, Also leavings; remainders; dregs. The sand, gravel and cobbles that pass through the sluices in hydraulic mining were formerly designated as tailings; more recently, they have been called mining debris or simply debris in states and U.S. legislative documents.

**Tailings Disposal:** The act of disposing or placing of ore materials after completion of processing.

**Talus Slopes:** The accumulation of broken rocks that occurs at the base of cliffs or other steep slopes.

**Targets:** Objectives assigned to the Forest by the Regional Plan.

**Temporary Facility:** Any structure or other human-made improvement that can be readily and completely dismantled and removed from the site when the authorized use terminates.

**Terrestrial Ecosystem:** A land-based ecosystem. (See ecosystem). An interacting system of soil, geology, and topography with plant and animal communities.

**Thermal Cover (Wildlife):** Cover used by animals to ameliorate the effects of weather. Optimally, thermal cover is provided by a stand of coniferous trees, 30 to 60 acres in size, at least 40 feet tall, with a canopy cover of at least 70 percent.

**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.

**Tiering:** Refers to the elimination of repetitive discussions of the same issue by referencing the general discussion in an environmental impact statement of broader scope. For example, a project environmental assessment could be tiered to the Forest Plan EIS.

**Timber:** A general term applied to tree stands that provide a wood-fiber product.

**Timber Base:** The lands within a national forest or national grassland suitable for timber production.

**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, except fuelwood.

**Timing Limitation (Seasonal Restriction):** Prohibits surface use during specified time periods to protect identified resource values. The stipulation does not apply to the operation or maintenance of production facilities unless the findings analysis demonstrates the continued need for such mitigation and the insufficiency of less stringent, project-specific mitigation measures.

**Title Claim:** A claim of land as a person's own, based on any reasonable evidence that establishes the person's actual use of the land as though the person had obtained ownership in fee (FSH 5509.1105). A claim of land as a person's own, based on any reasonable evidence that establishes the person's actual use of the land as though the person had full title from the time the person obtained ownership of the abutting land.

**Topography:** The configuration of a land surface including its relief, elevation, and the position of its natural and human-made features.

**Toxic Waste:** Poisonous residues that may be harmful to plants, animals, and humans.

**Trace Fossils:** A sedimentary structure consisting of a fossilized track, trail, burrow, or tube resulting from the life activities of an animal, such as a mark made by an invertebrate or vertebrate creeping, feeding, hiding, or resting on or in soft sediment.

**Traditional Practitioners:** American Indians who practice traditional cultural lifeways and belief systems.

**Traditional Use Areas:** An area that is significant to a living community because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs that are rooted in the community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

**Trail:** The general term denoting a way for purposes of travel by foot, stock, or trail vehicle.

**Trailhead:** The parking, signing, and other facilities available at the terminus of a trail.

**Trampling:** Treading underfoot. The damage to plants or soil brought about by movements or congestion of animals.

**Transitory Range:** Land that is suitable for grazing use for a period of time. For example, on particular disturbed lands, grass may cover the area for a period of time before being replaced by trees or shrubs not suitable for forage.

**Transportation Facility:** Any developed facility to enhance or allow travel between two points. Transportation facilities include airports, highways, trails, railroads, and other facilities.

**Transportation System:** All roads needed to manage and administer Forest resources. A road network.

**Transportation/Utility Corridor:** A linear strip of land identified for the present location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries.

**Transportation Corridor:** A strip of land that includes up to a maximum of 1,000 feet for major roads (500 feet either side of the road's centerline) or 500 feet for major trails (250 feet either side of the trail's centerline). Transportation corridors form a passageway that allows travelers to experience and interact with the quality and character of the landscape. Also called travel corridor.

**Travel Corridor:** See "Transportation Corridor."

**Travel Management:** Travel management is the movement of people and products to and through national forest and national grasslands. It connects many different varieties of users and multiple uses on National Forest System lands.

**Travel Order:** A travel management decision issued by the responsible official to restrict, prohibit, or allow the use of a described area or facility to entry or mode of travel.

**Travelways:** A way of passage of vehicles, conveyances, person, or domestic livestock (stock driveways), developed by construction or use; may be referred to as a road or trail.

**Treated Area:** An area on which management, like timber harvesting or prescribed burning, occurs.

**Trespass:** The act of going on another's land or property unlawfully.

**Unclassified Road:** A road that is not constructed, maintained, or intended for long-term highway use, such as roads constructed for temporary access and other remnants of short-term use roads, associated with fire suppression, timber harvest, and oil, gas, or mineral activities, as well as travel ways resulting from off-road vehicle use.

**Understory (Vegetation):** The lowest layer of vegetation in a forest or shrub community composed of grass, forbs, shrubs and trees less than 10 feet tall. Vegetation growing under the tree canopy.

**Undesirable Species:**

- a. Species that conflict with or do not contribute to the management objectives.
- b. Species that are not readily eaten by animals.

**Ungulate:** A hoofed animal, including ruminants (cattle, but also horses, tapirs, elephants, rhinoceroses, and swine).

**Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE):** The USLE is an erosion model designed to predict average soil losses from sheet and rill erosion. The USLE does not predict deposition nor compute sediment yields from gully, stream-bank, and stream-bed erosion. USLE was developed by the Agricultural Research Service in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service) and state experiment stations.

**Unpalatable Species (Range Management):** Plant species that are not readily eaten by an ungulate animal.

**Unplanned Ignition:** A fire started at random by either natural or human causes or a deliberate incendiary fire. Acceptance of unplanned ignitions as a prescribed fire must be within an approved plan.

**Utility Corridors:** Utility rights-of-way designated as corridors are normally based on the following specifications, except for areas of heavy concentration of smaller utilities on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

<b>Rights-of-Way</b>	<b>Specifications</b>
Electrical Transmissions	45 kilovolts or larger.
Pipelines	8 inches or larger for crude oil. 12 inches or larger for all others.
Telecommunications	All fixed communication sites.

<b>Rights-of-Way</b>	<b>Specifications</b>
Telephone Lines	Main trunk lines and fiber optic.

**Utilization Levels (Livestock Grazing):** The portion of the current year's forage production by weight consumed or trampled by livestock. Utilization levels are usually expressed as a percentage.

**Valid Existing Rights (Minerals):** Legal interest that attaches to a land or mineral estate and that cannot be divested from the estate until that interest expires or is relinquished.

**Values at Risk (Fire Management):** Any or all natural resources, improvements, or other values that may be jeopardized if a fire occurs.

**Vegetation Treatment:** Any activities undertaken to modify the existing condition of the vegetation.

**Vegetative Buffer Zones:** Strips of grass or other erosion-resisting vegetation between areas of ground disturbance and areas needing protection from sedimentation.

**Vegetative Management:** Any activities undertaken to modify the existing condition of the vegetation.

**Vertebrate Fossils:** The fossilized remains of animals that had a bony skeleton or backbone.

**Vertical Diversity:** The diversity in an area that results from the complexity of the above-ground structure of the vegetation; the more tiers of vegetation or the more diverse the species make-up, or both, the higher the degree of vertical diversity.

**Vertical Grassland Structure:** The height and density of above-ground herbaceous plant material that is either standing or lodged.

**Viability:** The likelihood of continued existence in an area for some specified period of time.

**Viable Population:** A group of individuals of a particular species that produces enough offspring for long-term persistence and adaptation of the species or population in a given place. For planning purposes, 36 CFR 219.19 defines a viable population as one that has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure that a continued viable population is well-distributed in the planning area. A planning area is further defined by 36 CFR 219.3 as the "area of the National Forest System covered by a regional guide or forest plan." Direction from the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2670.5) defines a viable population as one which has the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure the continued existence of the species throughout its existing range (or range required to meet recovery for listed species) within the planning area.

**Viewshed:** Total visible area from a single observer's position or the total visible area from multiple observer positions. Viewsheds are accumulated seen areas from highways, trails, campgrounds, towns, cities, or other view locations. Examples are corridors, feature, or basin view-sheds.

**Visitor Information Service (VIS) Site:** A site that provides interpretive information (directional, historical, statistical) located at national forest or national grassland historical sites, overlook sites, or special interest areas.

**Visual Absorption Capability (VAC):** The inherent capability of the landscape to support management activities without significantly affecting its visual character. Rated as high, moderate and low:

- **High:** High visual capability to absorb change.
- **Moderate:** Moderate capability to absorb change.
- **Low:** Low capability to absorb change.

**Waiver (Oil and Gas):** Permanent exemption from a lease stipulation. The stipulation no longer applies anywhere within the leasehold.

**Walk-in Fishery:** Areas managed for semi-primitive, nonmotorized access to fishing in order to protect riparian ecosystems. Areas managed in such a manner will be designated on the recreation map and at the specific sites.

**Warm-Season Plant:** A plant that makes most or all its growth during the spring, summer, or fall and is usually dormant in winter. A plant that usually exhibits the C-4 photosynthetic pathway.

**Warm-water Fishery:** Stream and lake waters that support fishes with a maximum summer-temperature tolerance of about 80 degrees Fahrenheit. Bluegills, perch, and largemouth bass are examples of warm-water fish.

**Wallow:** A depression, pool of water, or wet area produced or utilized by elk, moose, or bison during the breeding season.

**Waste Dumps (Minerals):** The area where the overburden or non-ore material is placed. This material is derived from materials removed in gaining access to the targeted ore. Any dirt or rock that has been removed from its original location by mining operations.

**Water Rights:** Rights given by state and federal governments for the diversion and use of water.

**Watershed:** The area of land, bounded by a divide, that drains water, sediment, and dissolved materials to a common outlet at some point along a stream channel (Dunne and Leopold 1978), or to a lake, reservoir, or other body of water. Also called drainage basin or catchment.

**Watershed Order:** The number assigned to an entire drainage basin contributing to the stream segment of a given order and bearing an identical designation; for example, a first-order watershed contains all of the drainage area of a first-order stream. Also called basin order.

**Waters of the United States:** Waters used for navigation and all other waters such as lakes, streams (including intermittent streams), mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, or natural ponds, and their tributaries.

**Water Table:** The upper surface of the ground water or that level below which the soil is saturated with water.

**Water-Use Facilities:** These are facilities and structures which include diversion and discharge structures, ditches, and pipes.

**Water Yield:**

1. The measured output of surface water, usually measured in acre-feet.
2. The runoff from a watershed, including groundwater outflow.

**Water Yield Treatments:** Land management methods that affect the amount and/or timing of water yield. For example, certain harvest methods increase the likelihood that there will be increased water yield. Other management approaches, such as protecting and enhancing riparian areas, increase the likelihood that water flow will be sustained for a longer period of time.

**Weed:** Any plant growing where unwanted and having a negative value.

**Weeding (Silviculture):** A silvicultural operation eliminating or suppressing undesirable vegetation, mainly herbaceous, during the seeding state of a forest crop so as to reduce competition with the seedling stand.

**Wetlands:** Those areas that are inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support, and under normal circumstances do or would support, a prevalence of vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas such as sloughs, potholes, we meadows, river overflows, mudflats, and natural ponds.

**Wetland Communities:** Plant communities that occur on sites with soils typically saturated with or covered with water most of the growing season.

**Wet Meadow:** A meadow where the surface remains wet or moist throughout the growing season, usually characterized by sedges and rushes.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** Rivers or sections of rivers designated by Congressional actions under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as wild, scenic, or recreational by an act of the legislature of the state or states through which they flow. Wild and Scenic Rivers may be classified and administered under one or more of the following categories:

- **Wild River areas:** Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments with watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.
- **Scenic River areas:** Rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.
- **Recreational River areas:** 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.

**Wildcat Well (Oil and Gas):** A well drilled in an area where oil and gas have not been previously discovered.

**Wilderness:** Areas designated by Congressional action under the 1964 Wilderness Act or subsequent Acts. Wilderness is defined as undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements or human habitation. Wilderness areas are protected and managed to preserve their natural conditions, which generally appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activity substantially unnoticeable. Wilderness areas have outstanding opportunities for solitude or for a primitive and confined type of recreation. They include at least 5,000 acres or are of sufficient size to make practical their preservation, enjoyment, and use in an unimpaired condition; they may contain features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value, as well as ecologic and geologic interest.

**Wildfire:** Any wildland fire not designated and managed as a prescribed fire within an approved prescription. An appropriate suppression action will be applied to all wildfires.

**Wildlife:** Collectively the nondomesticated vertebrate animals, except fishes. The natural community of animals and plants.

**Windthrow:** The act of trees being uprooted by the wind.

**Winter Feeding:** Providing supplemental feed for livestock on National Forest System lands during the winter.

**Winter Range:** Rangeland that is grazed during the winter months.

**Withdrawal (Minerals):** An action that restricts the use of public land and segregates the land from the operation of some or all of the public land and mineral laws.

**Woodlot:** A small area of land occupied by trees.

**Woody Draws:** A classification of areas, particularly in grassland settings, where an overstory of woody vegetation in small drainages creates habitat for many wildlife species and shade, wind protection, and forage for livestock and wildlife. The vegetation is a result of higher moisture conditions than in the surrounding area, but surface water, if any, running through the area is generally short term.

**Xeric:** Having very little moisture. Tolerating or adapted to dry conditions.

**Zone of Influence:** A delineated geographic area within which the present and proposed actions exert an important influence on residents and visitors.