

APPENDIX F – ACRONYMS AND GLOSSARY

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ADA	American Disabilities Act
ADT	American Discovery Trail
AT	Appalachian Trail
BD	<i>Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis</i>
BE	Biological Evaluation
BMP	Best Management Practices
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation
CDOT	Colorado Department of Transportation
CDOW	Colorado Department of Wildlife
CDPHE	Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
CDT	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
CFI	Colorado Fourteeners' Initiative
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNHP	Colorado Natural Heritage Program
CP	Comprehensive Plan
CTF	Colorado Trail Foundation
CWA	Clean Water Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEIS	Final Environmental Impact Statement
FSM	Forest Service Manual
FSH	Forest Service Handbook

GIS	Geographic Information System
GMUG	Gunnison National Forest (and Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forests)
GOCO	Great Outdoors Colorado
GPS	Global Positioning System
IDT	Interdisciplinary Team
LAU	Lynx Analysis Unit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation List
MA	Management Area
MIS	Management Indicator Species
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NSRE	National Survey on Recreation and the Environment
NVUM	National Visitor Use Monitoring
OAHP	Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
OHV	Off-highway vehicle
PCT	Pacific Crest Trail
PSICC	Pike and San Isabel National Forests (and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands)
RDG	Requirement Decision Guide
ROD	Record of Decision
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office

TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties
TES	Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of the Interior
USFS	United States Forest Service
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
VQO	Visual Quality Objective
WIZ	Water Influence Zone
YCC	Youth Conservation Corps

Additional Service Day Allocation (Use) - Apportioning of newly available service days to the outfitter public as a result of service days becoming available due to increased capacity, or to reductions to specific authorizations of existing use. Additional service day allocations require a solicitation/prospectus process. (See also Service Day Re-Allocation).

ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. This act of the US Congress establishes a clear and comprehensive prohibition of discrimination on the basis of disability. Among other direction, it provides required guidelines for standards for new construction of various recreational facilities covered by the ADA, including some trail facilities. These guidelines are in place to ensure that identified facilities are accessible to the usable by individuals with disabilities.

Alternative – One of a number of possible options for responding to the purpose and need for action.

Analysis area – One or more areas grouped for purposes of analysis based on common impacts, effects, and social or economic factors.

Best Management Practices – Practices determined by the State to be the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution generated by non-point sources to meet water quality goals.

Big game – Large wild animals that are hunted for sport and food. This hunting is controlled by state wildlife agencies. Big game animals found on the Pike and San Isabel NF include mule deer, elk, and bighorn sheep.

Biological diversity (or biodiversity) – The variety and abundance of life and its processes. Biological diversity includes all living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur. Biological diversity also refers to the compositions, structures, and functions of species and habitats and their interactions.

Boreal – Associated with northern biogeographical region, or the northern coniferous forest growing in that region.

Buffer – A land area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffers along streams can greatly reduce any changes or impacts to stream water quality, temperature, or stream stability.

Candidate species – Plant and animal species being considered for listing as endangered or threatened, in the opinion of the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Category 1 candidate species are groups for which the USFWS or NMFS has sufficient information to support listing proposals; category 2 candidate species are those for which available information indicates a possible problem, but that need further study to determine the need for listing.

Clean Water Act – An Act of Congress, which establishes policy to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.

Composition (species) – The species that make up a plant or animal community, and their relative abundance.

Connectivity – The arrangement of habitat that allows organisms and ecological processes to move across the landscape. Patches of similar habitats are either close together or connected by corridors of appropriate vegetation (or live stream channels). Opposite of fragmentation.

Corridor (landscape) – Landscape element that connect similar patches of habitat through an area with different characteristics. For example, streamside vegetation may create a corridor of willows and hardwoods between meadows or through a conifer forest.

Cover type – The current or existing vegetation of an area, described by the dominant vegetation.

Critical habitat – Specific areas designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service occupied by a threatened or endangered species, on which are found physical or biological features essential to conservation of the species. These areas may require special management consideration or protection, and can also include specific areas outside the occupied area that are deemed essential for conservation.

Critical life stages – Animal life stages associated with the time of the year when reproduction, rearing young, and over-wintering occur.

Cultural resources – Cultural resources include sites, structures, or objects used by prehistoric and historic residents or travelers. They are non-renewable resources that tell of life-styles of prehistoric and historic people. Cultural resources are diverse and include properties such as archaeological ruins, pictographs, early tools, burial sites, log cabins, mining structures, guard stations, and fire lookouts.

Cumulative effects – Incremental impacts of the proposed activities when added to other past, present and foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

Cut slope – That portion of the slope that is excavated for trails.

Debris flow – The sudden movement and transport of a liquefied matrix of firm soil material and woody debris down a stream or river channel.

Deferred Trail Maintenance - Trail maintenance needs over and above typical routine maintenance tasks that are necessary to keep a trail facility fully functional. Deferred maintenance is usually the result of a lack of routine maintenance over the course of numerous years. Deferred trail maintenance activities either focus on repairing trail features in disrepair, or on replacing trail features that are dysfunctional and have deteriorated beyond the point of repair.

Denning habitat or sites – Habitat and locations used by mammals during reproduction and rearing of their young, when the young are highly dependent on adults for survival.

Design criteria – Design standards implemented in order to reduce or avoid impacts, including but not limited to BMPs, Standard Operating Procedures and Standards and Guidelines.

Designation of the Continental Divide Trail - The Continental Divide Trail was legally established by the 1968 National Trails System Act (P.L. 90-543) as amended by the 1978 National Parks and Recreation Act (P.L. 95-635). Only Congress may “designate” a National Scenic Trail.

Detrimental disturbance – Detrimental disturbance to soil is the alteration of natural soil characteristics that results in immediate or prolonged loss of soil productivity and soil-hydrologic conditions. This can occur from soil that has been displaced, compacted, or severely burned. Determination of DD excludes existing or planned classified transportation facilities, dedicated trails, and landings, mining dumps or excavations, parking areas, developed campgrounds, and other dedicated facilities.

Developed recreation – Recreation that requires facilities that in turn result in concentrated use of an area; for example, a campground or ski resort.

Direct effects – Effects caused by the action and occurring at the same time and place.

Dispersed recreation – Recreation that does not occur in a developed recreation setting, such as hunting, scenic driving, or backpacking.

Disturbance – Any event, such as wildfire or a timber sale, that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem.

Ecosystem – A naturally occurring, self-maintained system of living and non-living interacting parts that are organized into biophysical and human dimension components.

Ecosystem health – A condition where the components and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system’s capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for ecosystem uses, values, and services are met.

Endangered species – Designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service, an animal or plant species that has been given federal protection status because it is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) – An act passed by Congress in 1973 intended to protect species and subspecies of plants and animals that are of “aesthetic, ecological, educational, historical, recreational, and scientific value”. It may also protect the listed species’ critical habitat, the geographic area occupied by or essential to the species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share authority to list endangered species, determine critical habitat, and develop species’ recovery plans.

Erosion – The transportation of earth and rock materials by water, ice, wind, and gravity.

Essential habitat – Used to describe habitat of listed species under ESA, but not designated as “critical habitat”. Essential habitat has all the important elements of habitat necessary to sustain a species.

Exotic species – Animals or plants that have been introduced from a distant place and are non-native to the area of introduction.

Fine sediment – Or surface fines. Mineral and organic particles smaller than 6.3 millimeters in diameter.

Forage – All browse and non-woody plants that are available to livestock or wildlife for grazing or harvested for feeding.

Forbs – Any herbaceous plant other than true grasses, sedges, or rushes.

GIS (Geographic Information System) – A computer system that stores and uses spatial (mappable) data.

Ground cover – Ground cover consists of vegetation, litter, and rock fragments in contact with the soil. It also consists of perennial canopy cover that is within three feet of the ground, including leaves and branches that persist for more than a year. Minimum amounts of ground cover needed to protect soil from erosion are a function of soil properties, slope gradient and length, and erosivity (precipitation factor), and need to be determined locally.

Habitat – A place that provides seasonal or year-round food, water, shelter, and other environmental conditions for an organism, community, or population of plants or animals.

Historic property – Any pre-historic or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included on, or eligible for inclusion on the National Register, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource.

Hydrologic cycle – Also called a water cycle, it is the process of water evaporating, condensing, falling to the ground as precipitation, and returning to the ocean as run-off.

Indirect effect - Effects caused by the action, but occurring later in time or further removed in place.

Intermittent stream – A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation or seasonal run-off, and that receives little or no water from springs or other permanent sources. Unlike ephemeral streams, an intermittent has well-defined channel and banks, and it may seasonally be below the water table.

Irretrievable commitments – Losses of production or use for a period of time.

Irreversible commitments – Permanent or essentially permanent resource uses or losses that cannot be reversed, except in the extreme long term.

Issue – A public or agency concern about a specific action or area that is addressed in the NEPA process.

Landslide-prone – Land that has a probability of mass movement greater than or equal to 10 percent during a period of 100 years.

Location of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail – The decision to determine where the CDNST will be situated on the ground. This may be on an existing National Forest System Trail or on an entirely new alignment. The Chief of the Forest Service has the authority to make “location” determinations. This authority has been delegated to USFS Regional Foresters.

Macroinvertebrates – Any animal lacking a backbone and generally visible to the unaided eye. In rivers and streams they include aquatic insects, mussels, and crabs.

Management Indicator Species (MIS) – Representative species whose habitat conditions or population changes are used to assess the impacts of management activities on similar species in a particular area. MIS are generally presumed to be sensitive to habitat changes.

Monitoring – The process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated results of a management plan are being realized, or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

National Wilderness Preservation System – All lands managed under the Wilderness Act and subsequent wilderness designations, irrespective of the department or agency having jurisdiction.

Native plant – A plant native to a specific region where it grows naturally and where it evolved before the arrival of European settlers in the late 1700s.

Naturalized – A plant that is not native to an area but has colonized new areas in which it is not native.

NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) – An abbreviation for the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which requires environmental analysis and public disclosure of federal actions.

NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act) – A Federal Act, passed in 1966, which established a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the nation and for other purposes, including the establishment of the National Register of Historic Places, the National Historic Landmarks designation, regulations for supervision of antiquities, designation of the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), guidelines for federal agency responsibilities, technical advice, and the establishment of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

NRHP (National Register of Historic Places) – List of cultural resources that have local, state, or national significance maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

No action (alternative) – The most likely condition expected to exist if current management practices continue unchanged. The analysis of this alternative is required for federal actions under NEPA.

Non-native plant – A plant that arrived since the time of European contact.

Noxious weed – A state-designated plant species that causes negative ecological and economic impacts to both agricultural and other lands within the state.

Perennial stream – A stream that typically maintains year-round surface flow, except possibly during extreme periods of drought. A perennial stream receives its water from springs or other permanent sources, and the water table usually stands at a higher level than the floor of the stream.

Permeability – The capacity for transmitting a fluid.

Proposed action – A proposal made by the Forest Service to authorize, recommend, or implement an action to meet a specific purpose and need.

Relocation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail – The decision to move the alignment of the CDNST from an existing position to another position. Typically this “relocation” occurs in an effort to more closely follow the designating Acts or to address unacceptable resource impacts associated with the existing position of the trail on the land. The Chief of the Forest Service has the authority to make “relocation” determinations. This authority has been delegated to USFS Regional Foresters.

Resident fish – Fish that are non-migratory and spend their entire life cycle within a given freshwater area.

Riparian – Pertaining to areas of land directly influence by water. Riparian areas usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics reflecting this water influence. Stream banks, lake borders, or marshes are typical riparian areas. Vegetation bordering watercourses, lakes or swamps; it requires a high water table.

Riparian areas or zones – Terrestrial areas where the vegetation complex and microclimate conditions are products of the combined presence and influence of perennial and/or intermittent water, associated with high water tables, and soils that exhibit some wetness characteristics.

Scoping – A process defined by the National Environmental Policy Act and used by the Forest Service to determine through public involvement, the range of issues that the planning process should address.

Sedimentation – A general term describing both the erosion and sediment delivery processes.

Sensitive species – Sensitive plant and animal species are selected by the Regional Forester or the BLM State Director because population viability may be a concern, as evidenced by a current or predicted downward trend in population numbers or density, or a current or predicted downward trend in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution. Sensitive species are not addressed in or covered by the Endangered Species Act.

Service Day Re-Allocation (Use) - Re-assignment of existing service days from one capacity unit to another for outfitter operations with pre-existing special use authorization. This process does not increase the overall total number of service days currently allocated by individual permit. Depending on scope, re-allocation of service days may or may not require a solicitation/prospectus process. (See also Additional Service Day Allocation).

Soil – A dynamic natural body on the surface of the earth in which plant grow; it is composed of mineral, organic, and living materials.

Soil compaction – Compaction is a physical change in soil properties that results when pore spaces are reduced in size and soil becomes denser. Compaction generally occurs when a load is applied to the soil, such as when heavy equipment makes several passes that compress the soil. For Forest management, soils are considered to be detrimentally compacted when there is a 10-12 percent reduction in soil porosity. Because porosity is difficult to measure, soil bulk density is typically used as a surrogate. See (FSH 2509.18) for relationship between soil porosity and soil bulk density).

Soil displacement – The movement of soil from one place to another by mechanical forces such as digging, blade pushing, wheels or hooves churning, or logs being dragged.

Soil erosion – Soil erosion is the detachment and transport of soil particles or aggregates by wind, water, or gravity. Management practices may increase soil erosion hazard when they remove ground cover and detach soil particles.

Spawning – The act of fish reproduction. The mixing of the sperm of a male fish and the eggs of a female fish.

Special use permit – A special use authorization that provides permission, without conveying an interest in land, to occupy and use National Forest System lands or facilities for specific purposes, and which is both revocable and terminable.

Species of concern – An unofficial status for a species whose abundance is at low levels.

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

Substrate – The streambed that is composed of mud, sand, gravel, and/or boulders.

Subwatershed – A subdivision within a watershed.

Summer range – The area essential for big game to carry out their reproductive cycles.

Threatened species – Designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service; a plant or animal species given federal protection because it is likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

Trail – A pathway for purposes of travel by foot, stock, ski, snowshoe, or trail vehicles.

Trailway width - The entire width of ground disturbing activity for trail construction and reconstruction activities. Includes the trail tread width plus width of backslope and fillslope. Backslope or fillslope widths may be replaced with width of uphill or downhill retaining walls if these structures replace the backslope or fillslope.

Understory – The trees and other woody species growing under a more-or-less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the upper portion of adjacent trees and other woody growth.

Viable population – A population that is regarded as having the estimated numbers and distribution of reproductive individuals to ensure that it will continue to exist over time and will be well distributed within a given area.

Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs) – A desired level of excellence based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area. Refers to degree of acceptable alternation of the characteristic landscape. “Preservation” VQO provides for ecological change only.

Water Influence Zone (WIZ) – Includes the geomorphic floodplain, riparian ecosystem, and inner gorge. Its minimum horizontal width (from top of each bank) is the greater of 100 feet or the mean height of mature dominant late-seral vegetation. It includes adjacent unstable and highly-erodible soils.

Water quality – Refers to the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that describe the conditions of a river, stream, or lake.

Waterbar – An earthen barrier across a road or trail used to divert water and reduce erosion. It is usually designed to allow limited vehicle passage for roads and unlimited passage for trails.

Watershed – Region or area drained by surface and groundwater flow in rivers, streams, or other surface channels. A smaller watershed can be wholly contained within a larger one, as watersheds are hierarchal in structure.

Waytrail - The Trail Class within the USFS trail classification system with the lowest level of development. Waytrails are only allowed for hiker-pedestrian designed uses. Waytrails are typically characterized by native or user created tread that may be intermittent or indistinct. Natural obstacles may be common and are left in place unless causing resource damage. Passageways may be very narrow with brush, steep grades, rocks and logs present. Typically signage is absent except for resource protection. Travel may require off-trail skills and a high level of route finding. No regular maintenance intervals are scheduled. Maintenance is only in response to unusual resource problems requiring repair. Use levels are typically low to very low.

Wetlands – Land areas that are wet at least for part of the year, are poorly drained, and are characterized by hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Examples of wetlands include swamps, marshes, and bogs.

Wilderness areas – Areas that are without developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural, and that Congress has designated as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Winter range – An area or areas where animals (usually ungulates such as elk, deer, bighorn sheep) concentrate due to favorable winter weather conditions. Conditions are often influenced by snow depth, and the availability of forage and thermal cover.