

# **Chapter VII**

## **Glossary**

## **VII. Glossary**

### **Acidification**

The decrease of acid neutralizing capacity in water or the base saturation in soil caused by natural or anthropogenic processes.

### **Acid Deposition**

Air pollution produced when acid chemicals are incorporated into rain, snow, fog, or mist.

### **Acre-Feet**

A unit of volume used to measure the capacity of reservoirs. One acre-foot is a volume one foot deep covering an area of one acre. Thus an acre-foot contains 43 560 cubic feet or about 1233.482 cubic meters (0.123 348 hectare meter).

### **Active Crown Fire**

When the main surface fire and the fire burning in the crowns are moving together across the fire front.

### **Adaptive Management**

The process of continually adjusting management in response to new information, knowledge, or technologies.

### **Airshed**

A geographic area that, because of topography, meteorology, and/or climate, is frequently affected by the same air mass.

### **Allocations**

Land areas that are differentiated and named in the Framework or in the Monument Plan where different standards and guidelines apply.

### **Alluvial Fans**

Fan-shaped deposits of water-transported material (alluvium) which typically form at the base of topographic features where there is a marked break in slope.

## **Alluvium**

Unconsolidated gravel, sand, and finer rock debris deposited principally by running water, found locally on the floors of canyons and valleys.

## **Aquatic**

Growing or living in or frequenting water; taking place in or on water.

## **Aquatic Ecosystem**

A stream channel, lake or estuary bed, the water itself, and the biotic (living) communities that occur therein.

## **Arkosic**

Having a mineralogy that contains at least 25 percent feldspar.

## **Attainment Area**

A geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet the health-based national ambient air quality standard for that specific pollutant.

## **Basin**

The drainage or catchment area of a river or stream.

## **Beneficial Uses**

There are 24 categories of beneficial uses, including water contact recreation, non-water contact recreation, municipal water supply, cold fresh water habitat, and more. Each body of water in the state has a set of beneficial uses it supports that may or may not include all 24 categories. Different beneficial uses require different water quality control. Therefore, each beneficial use has a set of water quality objectives designed to protect that beneficial use.

## **Bioregions**

An area constituting a natural ecological community with characteristic flora, fauna, and environmental conditions and bounded by natural rather than artificial borders.

## **Carbonate**

A mineral compound characterized by a fundamental anionic structure of  $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$ . Calcite and aragonite,  $\text{CaCO}_3$ , are examples of carbonate minerals.

## **Carbonate Endemic**

Restricted or peculiar to a locality or region where carbonate type minerals occur. Limestone and marble are examples of carbonate rocks.

## **Carbon Monoxide**

A criteria air pollutant that is a colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete combustion, particularly incomplete burning of carbon-based fuels (e.g., gasoline, oil, and wood).

## **Cave Inventory**

Addition of a cave's location to the national forest's cave list. The inventory will include geospatial information and a description of the cave's entrance.

## **Cave Resources**

Any materials or substances occurring naturally in caves on National Forest System lands such as animal life, plant life, paleontological resources, historic resources, sediments, minerals, speleogens and speleothems.

## **Closed System**

A system where water escapes only through evaporation.

## **Codominant Trees**

Trees with crowns forming the general level of the crown cover of a forest stand, receiving full sunlight from above, typical of the large trees in the stand.

## **Complexity Cover**

A rating of cover provided by overhanging vegetation, wood, rock, overhanging banks and white water in a habitat type. Measure of fishery habitat.

## **Condition Class**

Condition classes have been developed to categorize the current condition with respect to each of the historic fire regime group. The relative risk of fire-caused losses of key components that define the system increases for each respectively higher numbered condition class, with little or no risk at the Class I level. Features of each condition class are defined through a qualitative description of the current state of five key ecosystem attributes; disturbance regime; effects of disturbance agents; potential production of smoke emissions; hydrologic function; and vegetative composition, structure, and resilience.

## **Confluence**

The point where two streams meet and flow together.

## **Control Burn**

A type of fuel treatment whereby fire is intentionally set in wildland fuels under prescribed conditions and circumstances. Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or habitat improvement. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and National Environmental Policy Act requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

## **Criteria Air Pollutant**

A group of very common air pollutants regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency on the basis of criteria, and for which a national ambient air quality standard is established (e.g., SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, PM<sub>10</sub>, Pb, CO, O<sub>3</sub>).

## **Critical Aquatic Refuge**

A relatively small watershed, ranging in size from about 3,000 to 85,000 acres, that has localized populations of rare and/or at-risk populations of native fish and/or amphibians.

## **Crown Base Height**

The distance from the top of surface fuels to the base of tree crowns. This measurement helps determine the potential for crown fire initiation during a wildland fire.

## **Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ)**

A system of linear or mosaic patch treatments of forest or shrub vegetation designed and treated to reduce fire spread and intensity, as well as to create barriers to fire spread. This treatment is similar to a fuelbreak, but tends to be wider and can be used as a base treatment for other nonlinear treatments.

## **Delta**

A triangular alluvial deposit at the mouth of a river.

## **Dendritic Drainage**

Treelike or resembling the pattern of branches and twigs of a deciduous tree. This pattern develops when streams flow over rocks that are fairly uniform in their resistance to erosion. This network pattern is the result of random flow.

## **Desired Condition**

A broad, overarching description of conditions that are desirable for key resources or opportunities within the Monument.

## **Distributary**

A branch of a river that flows away from the main stream.

## **Dominant Trees**

Trees with crowns extending above the general level of the crown cover of a forest stand and receiving full sunlight from above, generally larger than the average tree in the stand.

## **Drainage Area**

The geographical area draining into a river or reservoir.

## **Emissions**

Release of pollutants into the air from a source.

## **Endangered Species**

Those plant or animal species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range. Endangered species are identified by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

## **Ephemeral Stream**

Streams that flow only as the direct result of rainfall or snowmelt. They have no permanent flow.

## **Fine Fuels**

Fuels that ignite readily are consumed rapidly by fire (e.g., cured grass, fallen leaves, needles, small twigs less than ¼ inch diameter, also referred to as 1-hour fuels).

## **Fire Extent**

The size of the area that burned.

## **Fire Frequency**

A general term referring to the recurrence of fire in a give area over time. A frequent fire return interval rarely allows organic fuels to accumulate to a point where higher intensity fires may develop.

## **Fire Hazard**

A fuel complex, defined by volume, type, condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ignition and of resistance to control. For example, the moisture content of the fuel will influence the ability of the fuel to catch and sustain fire (degree of ignition) and how difficult it will be to control or extinguish the fire (degree of control).

## **Fire Management Plan**

An approved plan that describes how prescribed fires and naturally caused wildland fires will achieve resource management objectives.

## **Fire Regime**

The combination of fire frequency, predictability, intensity, seasonality, and extent characteristic of fire in an ecosystem.

## **Fire Return Interval**

Expressed as a range of years or as the arithmetic average (mean fire return interval) of all fire intervals in a given area over a given time period.

## **Fire Susceptibility**

A relative ranking of hazard, risk, and severity of large, severe fires. An assessment of the susceptibility of forest lands to wildfire.

## **Fire Risk**

The chance of a fire starting, as affected bya the nature and incidence of causative agents. Any causative agent.

## **Forest Road**

Any road wholly or partly within, adjacent to, and serving the National Forest System, which is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources (23 USC 101).

## **Forest Service Sensitive Species**

Plant or animal species, which are susceptible to habitat changes or impacts from activities. The official designation is made by the USDA Forest Service at the regional level and is not part of the designation of threatened or endangered species made by the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service.

## **Fuel Hazard**

A fuel complex defined by kind, arrangement, volume, condition, and location that forms a special threat of ignition and resistance to control.

## **Fuelbreak**

A system of linear or mosaic patch treatments of forest or shrub vegetation designed and treated to reduce fire spread and intensity, and create barriers to fire spread.

## **Fuels**

Plants and woody vegetation, both living and dead, that are capable of burning.

## **Fuels Management**

The planned manipulation and/or reduction of living and dead forest fuels to meet objectives or desired conditions set in the Forest Land Management and Resource Plan or other land use documents.

## **Fuels Treatment**

The treatment process needed to reach or make steps to reach a desired condition. And, if fuels are left untreated, it would interfere with effective fire management or control. For example, prescribed fire is a fuel treatment that can reduce fuels that accumulate on the forest floor.

## **Fugitive Dust**

Dust emitted from diffuse or ill-defined conditions other than a stack or chimney.

## **Fine Particle**

Particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

## **Gaps**

Openings in the canopy cover of forest vegetation. Gaps may be created by wildfire, disease, wind, prescribed fire, or mechanical treatments.

## **Glaciated**

To cover with ice or a glacier; to subject to or affect by glacial action.

## **Hand Treatment**

Manipulation of vegetation and fuels with tools that can generally be carried and used by one person. These tools include, but are not limited to, chainsaws, handsaws, axes, and loppers. Chippers will sometimes be an integral part of hand treatment.

## **Hanging Valleys**

A former glacial tributary valley that enters a larger glacial valley above its base, high up on the valley wall.

## **Hazard Reduction**

In fuels management, the planned treatment or manipulation of naturally growing vegetation or any other flammable material for the purpose of reducing the rate of spread and the output of heat energy from any wildland fire occurring in the treated area.

## **Hazard Reduction Prescription**

The specific parameters used to describe the conditions such as specific width, patch size and shape, species composition, diameter distributions, canopy cover, surface fuel mosaic, fire behavior, and location. They are determined at the site-specific project level based on topography, access, vegetation, risk of ignition, and potential fire behavior (this includes weather and wind).

## **Heavy Equipment**

Large, usually self-propelled machinery that can be used off roads and that usually requires highly trained operators. Heavy equipment includes, but is not limited to, bulldozers, feller-bunchers, cables, loaders, graders, backhoes, and chippers.

## **High Fire Danger (Weather)**

Weather conditions which influence fire ignition, behavior, and suppression, under the worst case scenario. Typically quantified by 90<sup>th</sup>, 95<sup>th</sup>, or 98<sup>th</sup> percentile weather days. These days are the average worst weather characterized by high temperatures, low humidities, and/or high winds.

## **HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code)**

Hydrologic units, commonly called watersheds. The United States is divided and sub-divided into successively smaller hydrologic units, which are classified into four levels: regions, sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. The hydrologic units are arranged within each other, from the smallest (cataloging units) to the largest (regions). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique hydrologic unit code (HUC) consisting of two to eight digits based on the four levels of classification in the hydrologic unit system.

HUC 5, HUC 6, and HUC 7 refer to different sizes of hydrologic units or watersheds. A HUC 5 watershed ranges from 40,000 to 250,000 acres in size. A HUC 6 watershed, or subwatershed, ranges from 10,000 to 40,000 acres in size, and is the typical size of watershed at which a landscape analysis is conducted. A HUC 7 watershed, or subsubwatershed, is typically less than 10,000 acres in size, averaging approximately 2,500 acres.

## **Hybridized Species**

To render hybrid; to produce by mixture of species.

## **Indigenous (Species)**

Any species of plant or animals native to a given land or water area by natural occurrence.

## **Intermediate Trees**

Trees in a forest stand that are shorter than the dominant trees, whose crowns receive little direct sunlight, and are generally slower growing than the dominant trees.

## **Intermittent Drainages**

Streams which flow part of the time and when flowing may flow subsurface along its length.

## **Inversion Layer**

In meteorology, a departure from the normal decrease of temperature with increasing altitude such that the temperature is higher at a given height in the inversion layer than would be expected from the temperature below the layer. This warmer layer leads to increased stability and limited vertical mixing of air.

## **Karst**

A type of topography that is formed on limestone, gypsum, and other rocks by dissolution, characterized by sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage.

## **Lacustrine**

Found in, or pertaining to, lakes or ponds, the deposits which have been accumulated in fresh-water areas.

## **LSOG**

Late seral old growth.

## **Maintained for Public Use**

A Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Highway Administration defines national forest system roads open to the public as those roads open to unrestricted use by the general public in standard passenger cars, including those roads open on a seasonal basis or for emergencies (Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Final EIS, Chapter 3, page 444).

## **Management Area**

Parts of the Monument that are differentiated, mapped, and named for each alternative. They are areas where separate management emphases apply. They vary by alternative and are named for ease of identification.

## **Management Emphases**

Statements that bring additional attention or focus to specific resources in Management Areas. They provide additional guidance for a specific management area but not to the entire Monument.

## **Management Goals**

Broad statements that describe the ends that managers strive to achieve in each alternative.

## **Management Strategy**

One of four primary methods or approaches proposed for each alternative to address the issues and move toward desired conditions. The four strategies proposed in this FEIS are as follows:

**Restoration Strategy.** The strategy that addresses the need to restore key terrestrial and hydrologic processes and structures, especially the regeneration of giant sequoias and the re-introduction of fire to fire-dependent ecosystems.

**Protection Strategy.** The strategy to reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to communities and the objects of interest.

**Recreation/Human Use Strategy.** The strategy to address the need for people to interact with and enjoy the objects of interest.

**Transportation Strategy.** The strategy to manage the road system for the proper care and management of the objects of interest.

## **Mechanical Treatments**

Includes those treatments conducted with heavy equipment such as piling or rearranging fuels for later burning, moving trees that have been thinned to a collection area, chopping or masticating fuels to change their flammability, or moving fuels away from trees or other special features to reduce the risk of damage from fire. Mechanical fuel treatments are commonly followed by prescribed fire to burn the fuel that has been piled or rearranged.

## **Metamorphic**

Said of a rock or rock body derived from pre-existing rocks by mineralogical, chemical, and/or structural changes, essentially in the solid state, in response to marked changes in temperature, pressure, shearing stress, and chemical environment.

## **Micromhos**

One-millionth of an mho. The mho is a unit of electrical conductance.

## **Morphology**

The observation of the form of the land.

## **National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)**

Permissible levels of criteria air pollutants established to protect public health and welfare.

## **National Forest System Roads**

Forest roads under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service (23 USC 101).

## **Native Fish Associations**

Assemblage of fish species typically found together in nature.

## **Naturalized Species**

A species not native to an area, but now well established.

## **Nitrates**

Those gases and aerosols that have origins in the gas-to-aerosol conversion of nitrogen oxides (e.g., NO<sub>2</sub>). Of primary interest are nitric acid and ammonium nitrate. Ammonium nitrate is very hygroscopic so its contribution to visibility impairment is magnified in the presence of water vapor.

## **Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)**

A gas consisting of one nitrogen and two oxygen atoms. It absorbs blue light and therefore has a red-brown color associated with it.

## **Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)**

A criteria pollutant, compounds NO, NO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>, alkyl nitrates, etc.

## **Nonattainment Area**

An area designated by the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator pursuant to Section 107(d) of the Clean Air Act as having air quality which does not meet one or more national ambient air quality standards.

## **Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)**

A gas similar to oxygen that is a criteria air pollutant and a major constituent of smog.

## **PCBs**

PCB's are a class of chemicals known as polychlorinated biphenyls. They are entirely man-made and do not occur naturally. PCB contamination from historic uses and dumping is widespread throughout the U.S. and the world. Disposal into waterways has caused PCB contamination of rivers, oceans, soils and even the polar ice cap. As a result, many forms of wildlife have become contaminated with

PCBs. The EPA has established a maximum contaminant level of 0.5 parts per billion of PCBs in drinking water.

## **PM10**

A criteria air pollutant that is particulate matter in ambient air less than 10 microns in diameter.

## **Paleoecology**

The study of the relationships between ancient organisms and their environments, the death of organisms, and their burial and post-burial history in the geologic past, based on fossil faunas and floras and their stratigraphic position.

## **Paleohistory**

Said of or pertaining to something in the past that is prior to the written records of man.

Pertaining to prehistory, i.e., the study of man during the time prior to written records.

## **Particulate Matter**

Dust, soot, and other tiny bits of solid materials that are released into and move around in the air.

## **Peak Flow**

Highest flow elevation in the annual flood series.

## **Perennial Stream**

A stream that typically has running water on a year-round basis.

## **Permeable**

Capable of being permeated, or passed through; yielding passage; passable; penetrable. Substances which allow the passage of fluids.

## **Petroglyphs**

Literally, a rock carving; it usually excludes writing and therefore is of prehistoric or protohistoric age.

## **Phytotoxic**

Poisonous to plants.

## **Pleistocene**

The time period that spanned from 1.8 million to 11,000 years ago

## **Pliocene**

The time period that spanned from 5 to 1.8 million years ago.

## **Prescribed Fire or Burning**

Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels in either their natural or modified state, under specified conditions of fuels, weather, and topography which allow the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce the intensity of heat and spread required to attain planned and approved resource management objectives.

Prescribed fires may include either those ignited by resource managers or by natural events such as lightning (such as those fires described under Wildland Fire Use).

## **Public Roads**

Roads that are under the jurisdiction of and maintained by a public authority, that are open to public travel (23 USC 101(a)).

## **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)**

A means of classifying and managing recreation opportunities based on physical setting, social setting, and managerial setting.

Primitive: An area three miles or more from roads and trails having motorized use; generally 5,000 acres or more in an essentially unmodified natural environment.

Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized: An area one-half mile from roads and trails having motorized use; generally 2,500 to 5,000 acres with only subtle modification to an otherwise natural setting.

Semi-Primitive Motorized: Same as semi-primitive non-motorized, but with motorized use of roads and trails, including off-road vehicle touring, snowmobile, hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.

Roaded Natural: An area one-half mile or less from roads; resource modifications range from evident to strongly dominant.

Rural: The setting is substantially modified with structures or other cultural modifications.

Urban: The setting is strongly dominated by structures, highways, and streets.

## **Regional Haze**

A cloud of aerosols extending up to hundreds of miles across a region and promoting noticeably hazy conditions.

## **Restoration Treatment Area**

A system of linear or mosaic patch treatments of forest or shrub vegetation designed and treated to re-introduce fire to the ecosystem.

## **Riparian**

Of, on, or relating to the banks of a natural course of water.

## **Roof Pendant**

A downward projection of metamorphic rock into an igneous intrusion.

A geologic formation that represents country that existed before intrusion of the granitic rock material that is responsible for the Sierra Nevada mountains.

## **Scenic Integrity Levels or Objectives**

Very High: Unaltered. 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. Comparable to VQO of Preservation.

High: Appears unaltered. 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. Comparable to VQO of Retention.

Moderate: Slightly altered. Landscapes where the valued landscape character appears slightly altered. Noticeable deviations must remain visually subordinate to the landscape character being viewed. Comparable to VQO of Partial Retention.

Low: Moderately altered. 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, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, 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. Comparable to the VQO of Modification.

Very Low: Heavily altered. 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, edge effect and pattern of natural openings, vegetative type changes or architectural styles within or outside the landscape being viewed. However, deviations must be shaped and blended with the natural terrain (landforms) so that elements such as unnatural edges, roads, landings, and structures do not dominate the composition. Comparable to the VQO of Maximum Modification.

### **Sensitive Cave**

A cave located on National Forest System lands that has been evaluated by the authorized officer and determined to have biotic, cultural, mineralogic, paleontologic, geologic, hydrologic, or other resources that have important value for scientific, educational, or recreational purposes

### **Smog**

A mixture of air pollutants, principally ground-level ozone, produced by chemical reactions involving smog-forming chemicals.

### **Species Composition**

The variety of species of trees and other plants in a forest stand. Species composition is one element of stand structure, defined below.

### **Speleogen**

Relief features on the walls, ceiling, and floor of any cave or lava tube which are part of the surrounding bedrock, including but not limited to anatomoses, scallops, meander niches, petromorphs, and rock pendants in solution caves, and similar features unique to volcanic caves.

### **Speleothem**

Any natural mineral formation or deposit occurring in a cave or lava tube including but not limited to any stalactite, stalagmite, helectite, cave flower, flowstone, concretion, drapery, rimstone, or formation of clay or mud.

### **Stand-Replacing Fire**

A fire that burns with sufficient intensity to kill the majority of living vegetation over a given area (fires in grass and brush are stand replacement fires for those vegetative types; in forest vegetative types, where 75-80% of the stand is killed by fire).

## **Stand Structure**

The arrangement and characteristics of trees and other plants in a forest stand. The structure of a stand varies in the size, age, number, and species of trees and plants.

## **Standards and Guidelines**

These are requirements that preclude or impose limitations on resource management activities, generally for the purpose of environmental protection, and are the primary instructions for land managers. They may apply to the entire Monument or they may apply to only specific allocations or areas.

## **State Implementation Plan**

A collection of regulations used by the state to carry out its responsibilities under the Clean Air Act.

## **Strategically Placed Area Treatments (SPLATs)**

A system of linear or mosaic patch treatments of forest or shrub vegetation designed and treated to reduce fire spread and intensity, and create barriers to fire spread.

## **Stratigraphic**

The study of rock strata, especially the distribution, deposition, and age of sedimentary rocks.

## **Sulfates**

Those aerosols that have origins in the gas-to-aerosol conversion of sulfur dioxide. Of primary interest are sulfuric acid and ammonium sulfate. Sulfuric acid and ammonium sulfate are very hygroscopic so their contribution to visibility impairment is magnified in the presence of water vapor.

## **Sulfur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)**

A gas consisting of one sulfur and two oxygen atoms. Of interest because sulfur dioxide converts to an aerosol.

## **Suppressed Trees**

Trees in a forest stand whose crowns are below the generally level of crown cover, receiving little or no direct sunlight, and usually slow growing and less healthy.

## **Thinning**

A silvicultural or fuels treatment that reduces the density of trees in a stand. The purpose of thinning is frequently to improve residual tree health, growth, and vigor; minimize mortality from drought and insects; reduce fuels; and manage for desired species composition. A thinning is commonly followed by a fuel treatment such as piling or prescribed burning to reduce surface fuels.

## **Threatened (Species)**

Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of their range within the foreseeable future, as designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

## **Toxic Air Pollutants**

Airborne chemicals that cause serious health and environmental effects.

## **Tributary**

A stream that flows into a larger stream or other body of water.

## **Unclassified Roads**

Roads on National Forest System lands that are not needed for, and not managed as part of, the forest transportation system, such as unplanned roads, abandoned travelways, or off-road vehicle tracks which have not been designated and managed as a trail, and those roads no longer under permit or authorization (Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, Final EIS, Chapter 3, page 444).

## **Visibility**

Air quality evaluated in terms of pollutant particles and gases that affect how well one can see through the atmosphere.

## **Visual Quality Objectives (VQOs)**

A set of measurable maximum levels of future alteration of a characteristic landscape.

Preservation: Ecological change only.

Retention: Human activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor.

Partial Retention: Human activities may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.

Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but must, at the same time, follow naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in foreground or middleground.

Maximum Modification: Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

## **Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)**

Organic compounds that vaporize readily and contribute to the development of ozone.

## **Watershed**

The region draining into a river, river system, or other body of water.

The entire region drained by a waterway, lake, or reservoir. More specifically, a watershed is an area of land above a given point on a stream that contributes water to the streamflow at that point.

## **Weir**

A dam placed across a river or canal to raise or divert the water, as for a millrace, or to regulate or measure the flow.

## **Well-sorted**

Measurement of uniform particle size in a sediment.

## **Wildland Fire**

Any fire that occurs on wildlands that is not a prescribed fire.

## **Wildland Fire Threat**

The potential fire behavior and related fire effects (rate of spread, fire intensity, tree mortality, structure loss, etc.) due to the interactions of fuels, weather, and topography.

## **Wildland Fire Use**

The management of naturally ignited wildland fires to accomplish resource management objectives such as reducing fuel loads and restoring fire return intervals.