

Appendices

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Appendix A

Glossary, Acronyms, and Abbreviations

Buckhorn Access Project

A

Adit: An underground mining term. A horizontal or nearly horizontal access opening into an ore deposit with a single opening to the surface. Different from a tunnel which has both ends opening to the surface.

Adjudicated: In law, to hear and decide judicially.

ADT: Average daily traffic. A measure of traffic over a 24-hour period and is determined by counting the number of vehicles (from both directions) passing a specific point on a given road.

Aerial: Consisting of, moving through, found, or suspended in the air.

Affected Environment: A physical, biological, social, and economic environment within which human activity is proposed.

Alternatives: The different means by which objectives or goals can be attained. One of several policies, plans, or projects proposed for decision making

Ambient: The environment as it exists at the point of measurement and against which changes (impacts) are measured.

Ambient air quality standard: Air pollution concentrations of the surrounding outside environment which cannot legally be exceeded during fixed time intervals within specific geographic areas.

Ambient noise levels: The composite of noise from all sources near and far. In this context, the ambient noise level constitutes the normal existing level of environmental noise at a given location.

Anadromous: Those species of fish that mature in the sea and swim up freshwater rivers and streams to spawn. Salmon, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout are examples.

Analysis area: A delineation of land subject to analysis of: 1) response to proposed management practices in the production, enhancement, or maintenance of forest or rangeland outputs and environmental quality objectives, and 2) economic and social impacts (FSM 1905). Tracts of land with relatively homogeneous characteristics in terms of outputs and effects that are being analyzed.

ANFO: A mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil which is used as a blasting agent.

ANILCA: Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act of 1980

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of forage required by one cow and calf, or their equivalent, for one month. Approximately 800 pounds of air-dried feed (26 pounds/day).

Aquatic: Growing, living in, frequenting, or taking place in water; in this EIS, used to indicate habitat, vegetation, and wildlife in freshwater.

Aspect: The direction toward which a slope faces.

B

BACT: Best Available Control Technology – pollution controls as defined by EPA for a specific emission or pollutant discharge and required for meeting pollution control regulations.

Base flow: A sustained or fair-weather flow of a stream.

Baseline data: Data gathered prior to the proposed action to characterize pre-development site conditions.

Berm: A earthen structure, generally several feet high, which acts as a barrier to make it difficult for a vehicle to cross, or which redirects the flow of traffic, water or other materials.

Best management practices (BMP): Management actions that are designed to maintain water quality by preventative rather than corrective means.

Biodegradable: Capable of being broken down by the action of living organisms such as micro-organisms.

Biological Assessment (BA): Refers to the information prepared by or under the direction of the Federal agency concerning listed and proposed species and designated or proposed critical habitat that may be present in the action area and the evaluation of potential effects of the action on such species and habitat.

Biological Evaluation (BE): Refers to the information prepared by or under the direction of the Forest Service concerning listed and Regional Forester Sensitive Species that may be present in the action area and the evaluation of potential affects of the action on such species and habitat.

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

Bond: A sum of money which, under contract, one party pays another party under conditions that when certain obligations or acts are met, the money is then returned; such as after mining reclamation occurs. Also referred to as a performance security.

Borrow site: Rock Quarry; earthen construction material source area such as sand and gravel or topsoil taken form a specific area for use in construction or reclamation.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM): The agency of the United States Government under the Department of the Interior, responsible for administering certain public lands of the United States and certain mining rights.

C

Canopy: The more-or-less continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crown of adjacent trees and other woody debris.

Capability: The potential of an area of land to produce resources, supply goods and services, and allow resource uses under an assumed set of management practices at a given level of management intensity. Capability depends upon current conditions and site conditions such as climate, slope, landform, soils, and geology, as well as the application of management practices.

CEQ: An advisory council to the President of the United States; established by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. It reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

CFR: Code of Federal Regulations. A codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

Chloride: A compound of chlorine with another element or radical. A salt or ester of hydrochloric acid.

Chronic: Continual and repeated over a long period of time.

Consumptive use: A use of resources (such as by mining) that permanently reduces the supply.

Contrast: Diversity of adjacent parts, as in color, tone, or emotions. The closer the juxtaposition of two dissimilar perceptions, in time or space, the more powerful the appeal to the attention.

Cover: Living or non-living material (e.g., vegetation) used by fish and wildlife for protection from predators, to ameliorate conditions of weather, or reproduce. The proportion of the ground occupied by a perpendicular projection to the ground from the outline of the aerial parts of the members of a plant species.

Criteria: Data and information which are used to examine or establish the relative degrees of desirability among alternatives or the degree to which a course of action meets an intended objective.

Cultural resources: The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by humans in the past, historic or prehistoric. More recently referred to as heritage resources.

Cumulative effects or impacts: Cumulative effect or impact is the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taken place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.7 – these regulations use effects and impacts synonymously). For

example, the impacts of the proposed haul from a timber sale and the development of the road for a mine together can result in cumulative impacts.

D

dB: Decibel scale.

dbh: Diameter of a tree at breast height (four feet, six inches from ground level).

Decibel: A unit of expressing the relative intensity (loudness) of sound (decibel or dBA), weighted along the audible frequencies. Usually measured on the "A" scale (dBA) for humans.

Decommissioning: Suspension and/or closure of operations and possible removal of facilities.

Depletion: Use of a resource (such as water or a component of water) in a manner that makes it no longer available to other users in the same system.

Desired future condition (DFC): A portrayal of the land or resource conditions which are expected to result if goals and objectives are fully achieved (30 CFR 219).

Detection limit: The lowest concentration of a chemical that can be reliably reported to be different from zero concentration. Various analytical instrumentation has different detection limits.

Detention ponds: Structures constructed by excavation and/or by building an embankment whose purpose is to retain water and allow for settlement of fines (total suspended solids) and reduction in turbidity.

Dilution: The act of mixing and thinning, and therefore a certain strength or concentration.

Direct Impacts: Impacts which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place.

Discharge: The volume of water flowing past a point per unit time, commonly expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs), million gallons per day (mg/d), gallons per minute (gpm), or cubic meters per second (cm/s).

Distance zones: Areas of landscapes denoted by specified distances from the observer. Used as a frame of reference in which to discuss landscape characteristics or activities of man.

Diversions: Removing water from its natural course or location, or controlling water in its natural course or location, by means of a ditch, canal, flume, reservoir, bypass, pipeline, conduit, well, pump, or other structure or device.

Diversity: An expression of community structure. High if there are many equally abundant species; low if only a few equally abundant species. The distribution and abundance of different plant and animal communities and species within the area covered by a land and resource management plan (36 CFR 219.3).

DNR (WADNR): An agency of the State of Washington, the Department of Natural Resources.

DOE (WADOE): An agency of the State of Washington, the Department of Ecology

Draft Environmental Impact Statement: The draft statement of environmental effects which is 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. A DEIS is required for proposals which may have probable significant adverse impacts.

E

EA: Environmental Assessment.

Ecosystem: An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment; for example aquatic; marsh; watershed; and lake ecosystems.

Effects: “Effect” and “impact” are synonymous as used in this document. Environmental changes resulting from a proposed action. Included are direct effects, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, and indirect effects, which are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but which are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density, or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems.

Endangered Species: Any species of animal or plant that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Plant or animal species identified by the Secretary of the Interior as endangered in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act.

Environment: The physical conditions that exist within the area that will be affected by a proposed project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and objects of historical or aesthetic significance. The sum of all external conditions that affect an organism or community to influence its development or existence.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): An analytical document prepared under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that portrays potential impacts to the environment of a Proposed Action and its possible alternatives. An EIS is developed for use by decision makers to weigh the environmental consequences of a potential decision.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): An agency of the Executive Branch of the Federal Government which has responsibility for environmental matters of national concern.

Ephemeral stream: A stream or portion of stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation or snow melt. Such flow is usually of short duration.

Erosion: The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice, or other geologic agents, including gravitational creep

ESA: Endangered Species Act.

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

Exploration: The search for economic deposits of minerals, gas, oil, or coal through the practices of geology, geochemistry, geophysics, drilling, shaft sinking, and/or mapping.

F

°F: Degrees Fahrenheit.

FCR: Ferry County Road.

Feasible: Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, social, and technological factors.

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS): Means a detailed written statement as required by Section 12(2) (C) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR 1508.11). It is a revision of the draft environmental impact statement to include public and agency comments to the draft.

Fishery: All activities related to human harvest of a fisheries resource.

Floodplain: The lowland and relatively flat area adjoining inland waters, including, at a minimum, that area subject to a 1%, or greater, chance of flooding in any given year.

Forage: All browse and non-woody plants that are available to livestock or game animals for grazing or harvestable for feed.

Forb: Broad-leafed, small plants composed of soft tissue, not woody material. Any herb other than grass.

Foreground: (scenic distance zone) A term used in scenic resource management to describe the area immediately adjacent to the observer, usually with ¼ to ½ mile.

Forest Plan: Each of the National Forests administered by the Forest Service is operated under a "Land and Resource Management Plan" as required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976. The 1976 Act was an amendment to the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act (MUSYA) of 1960 and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (FRRRPA) of 1974. Forest Plans are prepared under the authority of these acts.

FR (FSR): Forest Service Road.

Fugitive Dust: Dust particles suspended randomly in the air, usually from road travel, excavation, and/or rock loading operations.

G

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 angler under state or federal laws, codes, and regulations.

Geomorphic: Pertaining to the form of the surface of the earth.

Glacial till: Glacial materials deposited directly by ice with little or no transportation by water.

gpm: Gallons per minute.

Goal: A concise statement that describes a desired condition to be achieved sometime in the future. It is normally expressed in broad, general terms and can be timeless if it has no specific date by which it is to be completed. Goal statements form the principal basis from which objectives are developed.

Grade: A slope stated as so many feet per mile or as ft/ft (%); the content of precious metals per mass of rock (oz/ton).

Grizzly: Typically, in mining, a heavy steel grate used to size, and grade materials into required size categories. Also, a nickname for grizzly bear, an endangered species.

Ground water: Water found beneath the land surface in the zone of saturation below the water table.

Guideline: An indication or outline of policy or conduct; i.e., any issuance that assists in determining the course of direction to be taken in any planned action to accomplish a specific objective.

H

Habitat: The natural environment of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and soil conditions, or other environmental influences affecting living conditions. The place where an organism lives.

Habitat capability: The estimated ability of an area, given existing or predicted habitat conditions, to support a wildlife, fish, or plant population. It is measured in terms of potential population numbers.

Haul road/route: A road used by large (typically off-highway) trucks to haul ore and overburden from a mine to other locations, such as a mill facility or waste disposal area.

Hazardous material/substance: A waste is considered hazardous by the EPA if it exhibits one or more of these characteristics; ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and/or toxicity. These are listed in 40 CFR 261.3 and 40 CFR 171.8.

Heavy metals: A group of elements, usually required by organisms in trace amounts, but can be toxic in higher concentrations: includes lead, mercury, molybdenum, nickel, copper, cobalt, chromium, iron, silver, etc.

Hiding cover: Vegetation that will hide 90% of an adult deer or elk from the view of a human at a distance of 200 feet or less. The distance at which the animal is essentially hidden is called a “sight distance”.

I

Impermeable: Property of a substance that inhibits passage of fluids through its mass.

Increment: The amount of change from an existing concentration or amount; such as air pollutant concentrations.

Indirect impacts: Impacts which are caused by the action but are later in time or farther removed in distance, although still reasonably foreseeable.

Infiltration: The movement of water or some other fluid into the soil through pores or other openings.

Interdisciplinary team (IDT): The interdisciplinary team is comprised of a group of personnel with different training assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The team will consider problems collectively, rather than separate concerns along disciplinary lines. This interaction is intended to insure systematic, integrated consideration of physical, biological, economic environmental design acts and sciences.

Intermittent stream: A stream that runs water in most months, but does not contain water year-round.

Interstitial: Occupying the spaces between sediment particles.

Irretrievable: Applies to losses of production, harvest, or commitment of renewable natural resources. For example, some or all of the timber production from an area is irretrievably lost during the time an area is used as a winter sports site. If the use changes, timber production can be resumed. The production lost is irretrievable, but the act is not irreversible.

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

Issue: A point, matter, or question of public discussion about the proposal.

L

Landform: Any physical, recognizable form or feature on the earth’s surface having a characteristic shape, and produced by natural causes. Landforms provide an empirical description of similar portions of the earth’s surface.

Land Management: The intentional process of planning, organizing, programming, coordinating, directing, and controlling land use actions.

Land and Resource Management Plan: See Forest Plan.

Landscape: The sum total of the characteristics that distinguish a certain area of the earth's surface from other areas. These characteristics are a result not only of natural forces but also of human occupancy and use of the land. An area composed of interacting and interconnected patterns of habitats (ecosystems) that are repeated because of geology, landforms, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout the area.

Lead agency: In NEPA (40 CFR 1501.5) the agency(s) with main responsibility for complying with NEPA procedural requirements, such as the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Listed species (ESA): Species that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended).

Long-term impacts: Impacts that normally result in permanent changes to the environment. An example is a topographic change resulting from disposal of fill material or tailings disposal in a drainage. Each resource, by necessity, may vary in its definition of long-term.

M

Management activity: An activity of man imposed on a landscape for the purpose of harvesting, traversing, transporting, or replenishing natural resources.

Management area: An area with similar management objectives and a common management prescription.

Management direction: A statement of multiple use or other goals and objectives, and the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guideline for attaining them (36 CFR 219.3).

Management indicator species: A species selected because its welfare is presumed to be an indicator of the welfare of other species using the same habitat. A species whose conditions can be used to assess the impacts of management actions on a particular area.

Management requirements (MR's): Standards for resource protection, vegetation manipulation, silvicultural practices, even-aged management, riparian areas, soil and water diversity, to be met in accomplishing National Forest system goals and objectives.

Mature forest: Trees that have obtained full development, particularly in height and are in full seed production. When used in an economic sense, it indicates a forest that has attained harvest age. The point after which a decline in health and vigor is noted.

Maximum modification: A Scenic Quality Objective meaning man's activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as background.

Mean: A statistical value calculated by dividing the sum of a set of sample values by the number of samples. Also, referred to as the arithmetic mean or average.

Mesic: Characterized by, relating to, or requiring a moderate amount of moisture.

Microclimate: The local climate of a given area characterized by uniformity over the site.

Middleground: (Scenic distance zone) The space between the foreground and the background in a picture or landscape. Generally, the area from ½ to 4 miles from the viewer.

Migratory: Moving from place to place, daily or seasonally.

Mining claim: A portion of the Public Domain or related lands which is held, for mining purposes, in accordance with mining laws. This may include lode or placer claims, or mill sites.

Mitigation: Mitigation includes: (a) avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; (b) minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; (c) rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; (d) reducing or elimination of the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and (e) compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR Part 1508.20).

N

NAAQS: National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): An act declaring a National policy which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between humankind and the environment, promotes efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of humanity, enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establishes a Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). (The Principal Laws Relating to Forest Service Activities, Agriculture Handbook No 453, USDA, Forest Service, 359 pp).

National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan: A Plan which "...shall provide for multiple use and sustained yield of goods and services from the National Forest System in a way that maximizes long-term net public benefits in an environmentally sound manner." (36 CFR 219).

National Forest Management Act (NFMA): A law passed in 1976 as an amendment to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act, requiring the preparation of Regional Guidelines and Forest Plans and the preparation of regulations to guide development on Forest lands.

NEPA process: Measures necessary to comply with the requirements of Section 2 and Title I of the National Environmental Policy Act.

NO_x: Nitrogen oxides. A product of vehicle exhaust.

NPDES: National Pollution Discharge Elimination System – A program authorized by Sections 318, 402, and 405 of the Clean Water Act, and implemented by regulations 40 CFR 122. The NPDES program requires permits for the discharge of pollutants from any point source into waters of the United States.

NRHP: National Register of Historical Places.

NWS: National Weather Service.

O

OCR: Okanogan County Road.

Old-growth stand (old growth): Any stand of trees generally containing characteristics defined as old-growth in the Okanogan National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Ore: A mineral or group of minerals present in sufficient value as to quality and quantity which may be mined at a profit.

Oxide: A mineral compound of oxygen with one or more metallic elements.

P

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

Patented claims: Private land which has been secured from the U.S. Government by compliance with the mining laws relating to such land.

Perennial stream: A stream that flows year round.

Permeability: The property or capacity of porous rock, sediment, or soil for transmitting a fluid; it is a measure of the relative ease of fluid flow under unequal pressure.

pH: Symbol for the negative common logarithm of the hydrogen ion concentration (acidity) of a solution. The pH of 7 is considered neutral. A pH number below 7 indicates acidity, and a pH value above 7 indicates alkalinity or a base.

Piezometer: A device for measuring moderate ground water pressures.

Plan of Operations (POO): A description presenting the methods, timing, and contingencies to be used during the operation of a project. A document required from any organization and/or person proposing to conduct mineral related activities in federal land while utilizing earth moving equipment and which will cause disturbance to surface resources or involving the cutting of trees.

Plant communities: A vegetation complex unique in its combination of plants which occurs in particular locations under particular influences. A plant community is a reflection of integrated environmental influences on the site such as soils, temperature, elevation, solar radiation, slope aspects, and precipitation.

PM-10: Particulates of 10 microns in size or less, usually describing a source of air quality degradation.

Point Source: Stationary sources of potential pollutants. In terms of road construction, an example of a point source are crushing and screening operations for road surfacing.

Pollution: Human-caused or natural alteration of the physical, biological, and radiological integrity of water, air, or other aspects of the environment producing undesired effects.

POO: Plan of Operations.

Portal: The entrance to a tunnel or underground mine.

ppm: Parts per million.

Precious metal: Any of the less common and highly valuable metals, such as gold, silver, and platinum.

Prescription: The set of management practices applied to a specific area to attain specific objectives.

Prehistoric: Relating to the times just preceding the period of recorded history.

Prevention of significant deterioration (PSD): A special permit procedure established in the Clean Air Act, as amended, used to ensure that economic growth occurs in a manner consistent with the protection of public health; preservation of air quality related values in national special interest areas; the opportunity for informed public participation in the decision-making process.

Priority pollutant: Toxic aqueous pollutants specified as a particular concern in the Clean Water Act; EPA sets limits for discharge of these pollutants.

Proposed action: A description of the project as proposed by the Forest Service.

PSD: Prevention of significant deterioration.

Public scoping: Giving the public the opportunity for oral or written comments concerning the intentions, activity, or influence of a project on an individual, the community, and or the environment.

R

Range allotment: An area designated for use of a prescribed number and kind of livestock under one management plan.

Raptor: Bird of prey, including eagles, hawks, falcons, and owls.

RCW: Revised Code of Washington.

Reagent: A chemical substance used in treatment of ores.

Recharge: Absorption and addition of water to the zone of saturation.

Reclamation: Returning disturbed land to a productive form, usually in conformity with a predetermined land management plan or a government approved plan or permit.

Reclamation Plan: A document that details the measures to be taken by a project proponent (permit holder) to reclaim the project lands; such a document can contain reclamation measures to be employed during mining operations but typically describes measures to be used after mining and milling have been completed.

Record of Decision (ROD): A document separate from but associated with an Environmental Impact Statement which states the decision, identifies alternatives, specifying which were environmentally preferable and states whether all practicable means to avoid environmental harm from the alternative have been adopted, and if not, why not (40 CFR 1505.2).

Recovery plan (ESA): A plan developed by the U.S.D.I. Fish and Wildlife Service for the recovery of listed species.

RHCA: Riparian Habitat Conservation Area.

Riparian: A type of ecological community that occurs adjacent to streams and rivers and is directly influenced by water. It is characterized by certain types of vegetation, soils, hydrology, and fauna and requires free or unbound water or conditions more moist than that normally found in the area.

Road density: The number of miles of road per square mile of land. Can be density by all roads, or only open roads.

Runoff: Precipitation that is not retained on the site where it falls, nor absorbed by the soil, natural drainage away from an area.

S

Salmonid: Any of a family of elongate soft-finned fishes (such as salmon and trout).

Scenic quality: The essential attributes of landscape that when viewed by people, elicit psychological and physiological benefits to individuals and, therefore, to society in general.

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

Scenic sensitivity levels: A three-level rating system used to delineate areas receiving different amounts of exposure (present or potential) to user groups with differing attitudes towards changes in scenic quality.

Scoping process: A part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; early and open activities used to determine the scope and significance of the issues, and the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an Environmental Impact Statement (40 CFR 1501.7).

Sedentary organisms: Not migratory; staying in one place; stationary.

Sediment: Earth material transport, suspended, or deposited by water; also, the same material once it has been deposited.

Sensitive species: Plant or animal species which are susceptible or vulnerable to activity impacts or habitat alterations that are recognized by the Regional Forester as needing special management to prevent placement on Federal or State lists.

SEPA: State Environmental Policy Act.

Seral: A biotic community which is developmental, transitory stage in an ecological succession.

SHPO: State Historic Preservation Office.

Short-term impacts: Impacts occurring during project construction and operation, and normally ceasing upon project closure and reclamation. Each resource, by necessity, may vary in its definition of short-term.

Significant: Requires consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole, and the affected region, interests, and locality. Intensity refers to the severity of impacts. The severity of an impact should be weighted along with the likelihood of its occurrence.

Snag: A standing dead tree from which the leaves/needles and most of the branches have fallen.

Snow intercept/thermal cover (SIT): Vegetation that reduces energy exposure due to movement and temperature regulation by deer, and provides forage during periods of deep snow (18 inches or greater).

SO_x: Sulfur oxides, including sulfur dioxide (SO₂). A product of vehicle tailpipe emissions.

Socioeconomic: Pertaining to, or signifying the combination or interaction of social and economic factors.

Soil horizon: A layer of soil material approximately parallel to the land surface differing from adjacent genetically related layers in physical, chemical, and biological properties.

Soil productivity: The natural capacity of a soil to produce a specified plant or sequences of plants under a specified system of management. Productivity is generally dependent on availability of soil moisture and nutrients, as well as the length of growing seasons.

Soil profile: A vertical section of the soil through all of its horizons and extending into the parent material or to a depth of 60 inches.

Solid Waste: Garbage or refuse.

Sound level (dBA): The sound pressure level in decibels as measured on a sound level meter using the A-weighting filter network. The A-weighting filter de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequency components of the sound in a manner similar to the response of the human ear and give good correlation with subjective reactions to noise.

Special Use Permit: A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of Federal land for some special purpose.

Standards and guidelines: Principles specifying conditions or levels of environmental quality to be achieved.

Substantive comment: A comment that provides factual information, professional opinion, or informed judgment germane to the action being proposed.

Succession: The progression of plant communities that occurs on a site that previously contained a plant community that was removed by disturbances such as fire or logging. An orderly process of biotic community development that involves changes in species, structure, and community processes with time.

T

Terrestrial: Of or relating to the earth, soil, or land; an inhabitant of the earth or land.

Thermal cover: Cover used by animals to lessen the effects of weather.

Threatened species: Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future.

Topography: A configuration of a surface including its relief, elevation, and the portion of its natural and human-created features.

Track-out: Dust or mud tracked off of a gravel or dirt road onto a paved road.

Transect: A sample area in the form of a long narrow continuous strip that is used for the tabulation of data.

TSP: Total Suspended Particulates. Any finely divided material (solid or liquid) that is airborne with an aerodynamic diameter smaller than a few hundred micrometers.

Turbidity: Reduced water clarity resulting from the presence of suspended matter.

U

Unavoidable effects: Many effects which could occur from a project can be eliminated or minimized by management requirements, constraints, and mitigation measures. Effects that cannot be eliminated are identified as unavoidable.

Understory: A foliage layer lying beneath and shaded by the main canopy of a forest.

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture.

USFWS: United States Fish and Wildlife Service – part of the United States Department of Interior.

V

Viable population: A population which has adequate numbers and dispersion of reproductive individuals to ensure the continued existence of the species population on the planning area. (Okanogan National Forest) (FSM 1905)

Visual absorption capability: The physical capacity of a landscape to support proposed development and still maintain its inherent visual character.

Visual Quality Objective (VQO): Degree of acceptable alteration of the natural landscape. These include preservation, retention, partial retention, modification, maximum modification, and enhancement. Used by the Forest Service as standards by management area.

Visual sensitivity levels: A three-level rating system used to delineate areas receiving different amounts of exposure (present or potential) to user groups with differing attitudes towards changes in scenic quality. When combined with distance zones and Variety Class, make up Visual Quality Objectives.

W

WAC: Washington Administrative Code.

WADFW: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife.

WADNR: Washington State Department of Natural Resources.

WADOE: Washington State Department of Ecology.

Watershed: The entire land area that contributes water to a particular drainage system or stream.

Water quality: The interaction between various parameters that determines the usability or non-usability of water for on-site and downstream uses. Major parameters that affect water quality include temperature, turbidity, suspended sediment, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, specific ions, discharge, and fecal coliform.

Wetlands (Biological Wetlands): Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstance do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, etc. (See jurisdictional wetlands).

Wilderness: Land designated by Congress as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

W.M.: Willamette Meridian

XYZ

10-year, 24-hour event: The precipitation that is predicted to occur during a rolling 24-hour period with a 10-year recurrence interval.

404 Permit: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act specifies that anyone wishing to place dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States and adjacent jurisdictional wetlands shall apply to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corp of Engineers) for approval. A permit issued by the Corp of Engineers for these activities is known as a 404 permit.

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