

6.0 Document Support

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6.2.1 Codes, and CFR

- 40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500
- 40 CFR 1502-21
- 42 United States Code 4321, National Environmental Policy Act, 1969
- 42 United States Code 7401 et. al.
- 43 CFR 1610.5-5
- 43 CFR subpart 80
- 43 CFR 3802
- 43 CFR 3809
- 43 CFR 4180-2
- 43 CFR 8340 et. seq.
- 43 CFR 8560.4-6

6.2.2 Protocol Agreements and Programmatic Agreements

State Protocol Agreement

Between The California State Director of The Bureau of Land Management And The California State Historic Preservation Officer (1998)

Programmatic Memorandum of Agreement Among the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Bureau of Land Management (DOI), and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the California Desert Conservation Area (1980).

Programmatic Agreement Among the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Regarding the Manner in which the BLM will meet its Responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (1997).

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6.2.3 Citations

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6.3 Glossary

Accelerated Erosion: Soil loss above natural levels resulting directly from human activities.

Acre-Foot: The volume of water that will cover an acre of land to a depth of one-foot (323,851 gallons or 43,560 cubic feet).

Activity Plan: A detailed specific plan for management of a single resource program or plan undertaken as necessary to implement the more general resource management plan decisions.

Adverse Effect (Cultural Resources): Alteration of the characteristics which contribute to the use(s) determined appropriate for a cultural resource or which qualify a cultural property for the National Register to such a degree that the appropriate use(s) are diminished or precluded or the cultural property is disqualified from National Register eligibility. Criteria in the regulations of the Advisory Council (36 CFR, Part 800) guide the determination of adverse effects.

Age Class: An age interval, usually with a 10 to 20 year span, into which a vegetative area is classified (e.g. a 80-100 year old stand of bitterbrush).

Age Structure: The percentage make-up of a herd in terms of age groups 0-1, 1-2, 2-5, 5-10, 10-15, 15+ years used to determine or understand the population dynamics and identify future or past problems in the herd.

Air Pollution: Presence of atmospheric wastes above normal ambient concentrations that may damage the environment.

Air Quality Classes: Classes established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that define the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area:

- I. Almost any change in air quality would be considered significant
- II. Deterioration normally accompanying moderate, well-controlled growth would be considered insignificant.
- III. Deterioration up to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards would be considered insignificant.

Allotment: An area of land designated and managed for the grazing of livestock by one or more livestock operators. It generally consists of public lands, but may include parcels of private, other Federal or State owned lands.

Allotment Categorization: As an aid to prioritize grazing allotments for development of management plans, BLM has placed all allotments into one of three categories: improve (I), maintain (M), or custodial (C).

Allotment Management Plan: A documented program which applies to livestock operations on the public lands that is prepared in consultation with the permittee(s) or lessees involved, and which prescribes the manner in which livestock operations will be conducted in order to meet the multiple-use, sustained yield, economic, and other needs and objectives as determined for the public lands.

Alluvial Fan: A fan-shaped accumulation of disintegrated soil material deposited by water and located in a position where the water departs from a steep coarse to enter upon a flat plain or an open valley bottom.

Alluvium: Material, including clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated sediments deposited by a streambed or other body of running water.

Ambient Air Quality: Prevailing condition of the atmosphere at a given time; the outside air.

Animal Unit (AU): A measurement of animal numbers based on the equivalent of a mature cow with calf (1000 pounds live weight), one horse, five sheep, or five deer. One adult burro equals 7/10th of an animal unit.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): The amount of food or forage required by an animal unit (one cow or five sheep) for one (1) month.

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

Apparent Trend: An interpretation of the direction of change in vegetation and soil protection over time, based on multiple observations.

Appropriate Management Level (AML): A single number, which is the highpoint of an established population range to maintain a thriving natural ecological balance, based on available forage, water, and other resource needs or conflicts.

Aquifer: A water-bearing unit of permeable rock or sediment that is capable of yielding water to wells.

Archaic Period: Archeological period beginning about 8,000 BC to about 800AD.

Archeological District: An area that provides a concentration of cultural properties in a discrete, definable location.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern: Areas within the public lands where special management is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historical, cultural, scenic values, fish and wildlife and natural resources or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

Aridisols: An order of soils at apparent dynamic equilibrium with the climate of dry regions. They show limited profile development because of a low climatic intensity, the horizon containing less than 1- percent organic matter.

Aspect Species: A vegetation species that appears to be dominant in the landscape. Aspect species may be only a small percent of the total vegetation composition.

Biomass: The total quantity of living organisms of one or more species per unit of living space (called species Biomass) or of all the species in a community (called community Biomass).

Browse: (Noun) That part of leaf and twig growth of shrubs, woody vines, and trees available for animal consumption. (Verb) To consume - browse.

Browsers: Animals that feed primarily on browse.

Caliche: A layer of soil more or less cemented by Calcium Carbonates (CaCO³), commonly found in arid and semiarid regions.

Campsite: A cultural site type representative of all periods consisting of temporary habitation areas, which usually contain a lithic scatter, evidence of fire use, ground stone, and pottery scatters.

Candidate Species: Any species of animal or plant listed for consideration to be listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under the Endangered Species Act. Definitions for Categories 1 and 2 candidate species, excerpted from the Federal Register, are as follows:

Category 1: Taxa for which the USFWS currently has substantial information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support the appropriateness to list them as endangered or threatened species. Presently, data are being gathered concerning precise habitat needs, and for some of the taxa, concerning the precise boundaries for critical habitat designations. Development and publication of proposed rules on these taxa are anticipated, but, because of the large number of such taxa, could take some years. Also included in Category 1 are taxa whose status in the recent past is known, but that may have already become extinct.

Category 2: Taxa for which information now in possession of the USFWS indicates that proposing to list them as threatened or endangered species is possibly appropriate, but for which substantial data on biological vulnerability and threat(s) are not currently known or on file to support the immediate preparation of rules. Further biological research and field study usually will be necessary to ascertain the status of the taxa in Category 2, and some of the taxa are of uncertain taxonomic validity. It is likely that some of the taxa will not warrant listing, while others will be found to be in greater danger of extinction than some taxa in Category 1.

Canopy Cover: The cover of leaves and branches formed by the tops or crowns of plants as viewed from above the cover.

Carrying Capacity: Maximum stocking rate possible without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources. It may vary from year to year on the same area due to fluctuating weather conditions and forage production. (See grazing capacity)

Catastrophic Event: A large scale, high intensity natural disturbance that occurs infrequently (e.g. flood, fire).

Cave: Any naturally occurring void, cavity, recess, or system of interconnected passages which occurs beneath the surface of the earth or within a cliff or ledge (including any cave resource therein, but not including any vug, mine, tunnel, aqueduct, or other man-made excavation) and which is large enough to permit an individual to enter, whether or not the entrance is naturally formed or man-made. Such term shall include any natural pit, sinkhole, or other feature that is an extension of the entrance.

Clay: A mineral soil separate consisting of particles less than 0.002 millimeters in equivalent diameter.

Climax Vegetation Community: The final or stable community in a series of successive vegetation states that is self-perpetuating and in dynamic balance with the physical and biotic environment.

Community: A group of plants and animals living together in a common area and having close interactions.

Concentration Area (Critical Area): That portion of the herd management area where forage impacts are most extreme.

Contrast (Visual): The effect of a striking difference in the form, color, line, or texture of an area being viewed.

Contrast Rating: A method of determining the extent of visual impact of an existing or proposed activity that will modify any landscape feature.

Coordinated Resource Management Plan: A plan for management of one or more allotments that involves all the affected resources, e.g. range, wildlife, and watershed.

Cover: Small rocks, litter, basal areas of grass and forbs, and aerial coverage of shrubs that provide protection to the soils surface (i.e. in contrast to bare ground).

Critical Period: The time period the entire herd is within the critical area, usually during the hot or dry seasons.

Critical Soils: Soils that contain very highly saline soils and/or are very susceptible to water erosion.

Critical Watershed: An area of soils that 1)) have a high potential for salt yield; 2)) are subject to severe water and wind erosion when disturbed; 3)) have high runoff potential during storm events; 4)) are subject to frequent flooding; or 5)) have a potential for loss of vegetation productivity under high rates of wind and water erosion.

Critical Wildlife Habitat: Is defined in the Endangered Species Act as follows: 1)) The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by an animal species at the time that it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and 2)) which may require special management consideration or protection; and 3)) specific areas outside the geographical location occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of this Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

Crucial Wildlife Habitat: Sensitive use areas that are necessary to the existence, perpetuation, or introduction of one or more species during critical periods of their life cycle.

Cultural Property: Any definite location of past human activity, habitation or use identified through a field inventory), historical documentation or oral evidence. This term may include archeological or historic sites, structures and places, and sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to a specific group, whether or not represented by physical remains. Cultural properties are managed by the system of inventory evaluation, protection, and use.

Cultural Resources: Those fragile and non-renewable remains of human activities, occupations, and endeavors as reflected in sites, buildings, structures, or objects, including works of art, architecture, and engineering. Cultural resources are commonly discussed as prehistoric and historic values, but each period represents a part of the full continuum of cultural values from the earliest to the most recent.

Cultural Resource Inventory Classes:

Class I: Existing Data Inventory: An inventory study of a defined area designed to provide a narrative overview (Cultural Resource Overview) derived from existing cultural resource information and to provide a compilation of existing cultural resource site record data on which to base the development of BLM's site record system.

Class II - Sampling Field Inventory: A sample-oriented field inventory designed to locate and record all cultural resource sites within a defined area from surface and exposed profiles in a manner that will allow an objective estimate of the nature and distribution of cultural resources in the area. The Class II inventory is a tool utilized in management and planning activities as an accurate predictor of cultural resources in the area of consideration. The primary area of consideration for the implementation of a Class II inventory is a planning unit. The secondary is a specific project in which an intensive field inventory (Class III) is not practical or necessary.

Class III - Intensive Field Inventory: An intensive field inventory designed to locate and record, from surface and exposed profile indications, all cultural resource sites within a specified area. Normally, upon completion of such inventories in an area, no further cultural resource inventory work is needed. A Class III inventory is appropriate on small project areas, all areas to be disturbed, and primary cultural resource areas.

Cultural Site: A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural resource sites are extremely variable in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features. Prehistoric and historic sites, which are recorded as cultural resources, have sociocultural or scientific values and meet criterion of being more than fifty years old.

Density: The number of organisms per unit area.

Designated Right-of-Way Corridor: A parcel of land, either linear or aerial, that has been identified by Secretarial Order, through the land use planning process, or by other management decision, as a preferred location for existing and future rights-of-way grants and suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way which are similar, identical, or compatible.

Desired Beneficial Use: The use of water that is deemed beneficial and desirable; guidance for making determinations is contained in the Clean Water Act (Federal), Executive Order 12088, Porter-Cologne Act (California), Clean Water Act (Nevada), and a Memorandum of Understanding between the California Water Resources Control Board, BLM, and others.

Discretionary: Individual choice or judgment; the power of free decision or latitude within certain legal bounds.

Diversity: An attribute of an area, which is an expression of both the total number and relative abundance of species, communities, or habitats. Relative abundance can be measured by numbers of individuals, cover, or various other characteristics.

Early Seral Stage: A plant community with a species composition that is 0-25% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

Ecological Site: A kind of land with a specific potential natural community and physical site characteristics differing from other kinds of land in its ability to produce vegetation and to respond to management.

Ecological Status: The present state of vegetation and soil protection of an ecological site in relation to the potential natural community for the site. Vegetation status is the expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions and amounts of plants in the community resemble that of the potential natural community. If classes are used, they should be described in ecological rather than utilitarian terms. Soil status is a measure of present vegetation and litter cover relative to the amount of cover needed on the site to prevent accelerated erosion.

Economic Impact: The change, positive or negative, in economic conditions, including distribution and stability of employment and income in affected local and regional economies, that directly or indirectly result from an activity, project, or program.

Ecosystem: A complex self-sustaining natural system, which includes living and non-living components of the environment and the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

Endangered Species: An animal or plant species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, and as further defined in the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Energy Flows: Pertaining to the flow of energy through an ecosystem; usually described as an "energy pyramid or web." The rates of energy flow can vary on rangelands in both space and time. An example of energy flow is when sunlight energy is captured and converted into carbohydrates by green plants (producers) through photosynthesis; deer (primary consumers) eat the plants; coyotes (secondary consumers) eat deer; and eagles (tertiary consumers) eat coyotes.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document for which a federal agency is responsible that serves to: (a) briefly provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement or a finding of no significant impact; (b) aid an agency's compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when no Environmental Impact Statement is necessary; (c) facilitate the preparation of a statement when one is necessary. An EA includes brief discussions of the need for the proposal of alternatives as required by Sec. 102(2) of NEPA, of the environmental impacts of the proposed action and other alternatives, and a listing of agencies and persons consulted.

Environmental Consequence: A temporal or spatial change in the environment caused by an act of man. The change should be perceptible, measurable, and relatable through an agent of change to a proposed action or alternative. A consequence is something that follows an antecedent as a cause or agent. Consequences are synonymous with impacts and effects.

Environmental Impact Statement: A written analysis on the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or resource management plan.

Ephemeral forage: Part-time or seasonal forage (or) forage produced by annual forage species.

Ephemeral range: Range that does not consistently produce forage but periodically provides annual vegetation suitable for grazing.

Erosion: The wearing away of land surface by wind, running water, and other geological agents.

Evaluation of Cultural Resources: The analysis of cultural resource inventory records, the application of professional judgment to identify characteristics that contribute to possible uses for recorded cultural resources, and the recommendation of appropriate use(s) for each resource or group of resources. National Register eligibility criteria, 36 CFR Part 60, are interpreted through or with reference to BLM evaluation criteria.

Existing Right-of-Way Corridor: A parcel of land, without fixed limits or boundaries that is being used as the location for one or more rights of way.

Exotic Species: A species of plant or animal that is not native to the area where it is found. Any species that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized.

Extensive Recreation Management Areas (ERMAs): Areas where recreation is unstructured and dispersed and where minimal recreation-related investments is required. ERMAs provide recreation visitors the freedom of choice with minimal regulatory constraint.

Federal Land: Land owned by the United States of America, without reference to how the land was acquired or which Federal Agency administers the land, including mineral and coal estates underlying private surface.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, which gives the BLM legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering policy and to provide for management, protection, development and enhancement of the public land.

Fire Management: The integration of fire protection, prescribed burning, and fire ecology knowledge into multiple use planning, decision-making, and land management activities.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals.

Forage Utilization: An index to the extent forage is used. Utilization classes range from slight (less than 20%) to severe (more than 80%).

Forb: Any herbaceous non-woody plant that is not grass or grass-like.

Fundamentals of Rangeland Health: As described in 43 CFR 4180, the conditions in which rangelands are in properly functioning physical condition, ecological processes are supporting healthy biotic populations and communities, water quality is meeting State standards and BLM objectives, and Special Status Species habitat is being restored or maintained.

Grass: Any of a large family (Graminae) of monocotyledonous mostly herbaceous plants with slender sheathing leaves, jointed stems, and flowers borne on spikelets of bracts.

Grazing Capacity: The maximum stocking rate for grazing animals possible without inducing damage to vegetation or related resources.

Grazing Preference: The total number of AUMs of livestock grazing on public lands apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee or lessee.

Ground Water: Water beneath the land surface, in the zone of saturation.

Guidelines for Livestock Grazing: Livestock grazing management tools, methods, strategies, and techniques designed to maintain or achieve healthy public lands as defined by the Standards for Rangeland Health.

Gully Erosion: Removal of the soil leading to the formation of relatively large channels or gullies cut into the soil by concentrations of runoff.

Guzzler: General term covering guzzler, wildlife drinker, *tenaja*. A natural or artificially constructed structure or device to capture and hold naturally flowing water, and make it accessible to small and/or large animals. Most guzzlers involve above or below ground piping, storage tanks, and valves. *Tenajas* are natural depressions in rock that trap and hold water. To some *tenajas*, steps are sometimes added to improve access and reduce mortality from drowning.

Habitat: A specific set of physical and biological conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a community of species upon which the species or associations are dependent for their existence. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover and living space. The environment surrounding and supporting species.

Habitat Management Plan (HMP): A written and approved plan for a specific area of public land which identifies wildlife habitat and management objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Habitat Requirements: The biological and physical components of the environment required to meet the needs of plants or animals.

Hazardous Waste or Material (HAZMAT): Any substance that poses a threat to the health and safety of persons or the environment. These include any material that is toxic, ignitable, corrosive, or radioactive.

Heavy Use: Indicates that 60 to 80% of the year's forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Herbaceous: Vegetation with little or no woody component. Non-woody vegetation such as grasses and forbs.

Herd Area (HA): The geographic area identified as having been used by a wild horse or burro herd as its habitat in 1971.

Herd Management Area (HMA): Areas established within the herd area for the maintenance of wild horse and burro herds.

Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP): A written and approved plan for a specific geographical area of public land, which identifies wild horse (or burro) herd use areas and habitat, identifies population and habitat objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

Historical Cultural Resources: Historical Cultural Resources include all mines, ranches, resorts, trails, railroads, towns, and other evidence of human use from the entrance of the original Spanish explorers and colonists to 1938.

Indicator: Quantitative measure of an ecosystem element which is used to describe the condition of an ecosystem. Changes in indicators over relatively short periods of time are used to measure affects of management.

Isolated Tract: A parcel of public lands surrounded by non-federal lands.

Karst: A type of topography that results from dissolution and collapse of limestone, dolomite, or gypsum beds and is characterized by closed depressions or sinkholes, caves, and underground drainage.

Key Area: A relatively small portion of land, based on its location, use, or grazing value, that is selected as a location for monitoring the effects of grazing use. It is assumed that key areas, if properly selected, will reflect the effects of current grazing management over all or a part of a pasture, allotment, or other grazing unit.

Key Forage Species: Forage species whose use serves as an indicator of the degree of use of associated species. Those species that must, because of their importance, be considered in the management program.

Key Species: Species that, because of their importance, must be considered in a management program; or forage species whose use shows the degree of use of associated species.

Land Disposal: A transaction that leads to the transfer of title of public lands from the federal government.

Landscape (Scale): An area of interacting ecosystems where patterns are repeated because of geology, landform, soils, climate, biota, and human influences throughout the area. Applied in terms of 100's to 1000's of acres.

Late Seral: A plant community with a species composition that is 51 to 75% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

Leasable Minerals: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, geothermal resources, and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

Limestone: A sedimentary rock consisting more than 50% of calcium carbonate, primarily in the form of calcite.

Lithic: A stone or rock exhibiting modification by humans. It generally applies to projectile points, scrapers and chips, rather than ground stone.

Lithic Scatter: A type of prehistoric cultural site where flakes, cores, and stone tools are located as a result of the manufacture or use of stone tools.

Loam: Soil material that is 7 to 27% clay, 28 to 50% silt, and less than 52% sand.

Locatable Minerals: A mineral subject to location under the 1872 mining laws. Examples of such minerals would be gold, silver, copper and lead as compared to oil and natural gas, which are leasable minerals.

Long-term Planning: Planning that extends twenty years or beyond the present time.

Management Framework Plan (MFP): A planning decision document that provides coordination guidelines for multiple use and management objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection. A MFP is prepared in three steps; (1) resource recommendations, (2) impact analysis and alternative development, and (3) decision making.

Metallic Minerals: Those minerals whose native form is metallic or whose principle products after refinement are metallic.

Mid Seral Stage: A plant community with a species composition that is 26 to 50% of the potential natural community one would expect to find on that ecological site.

Mineral Entry: The location of mining claims by an individual to protect his right to a valuable mineral.

Mineral Withdrawals: Closure of land to mining laws, including sales, leasing and location, subject to valid existing rights.

Mitigation: The lessening of a potential adverse effect by applying appropriate protection measures.

Modern Urban: One of the six classes of the recreation spectrum. In modern urban areas, opportunities to experience recreation in affiliation with individuals and groups are prevalent, as is the convenience of recreation sites and opportunities. Opportunities for wild land challenges, risk taking, and testing of outdoor skills are unimportant. Opportunities for competitive spectator sports are common, as are opportunities to use parks and open spaces highly influenced by people.

Moderate Use: Indicates that 40 to 60% of the current years forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Moderate Use Monitoring: The orderly collection and analysis of data to evaluate progress in meeting resource management objectives.

Mortality: The number of deaths/100 in a population or age group that must be subtracted from the observed recruitment, (e.g., foals/100 adults), to determine accurate population projections.

Multiple-Use: Management of public lands and their various resource values, so that they are used in the combination to meet the present and future needs of the American people. Relative resource values are considered; not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest potential economic return or the greatest unit output.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): National standards established under the Clean Air Act by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Prescribed concentrations of pollutants in the outdoor air that may not be exceeded. There are two levels of NAAQS: primary standards, set to protect the public health from air pollution damage, and secondary standards, set at concentrations to protect public welfare.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969: A law enacted on January 1, 1970 that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. It established the Council on Environmental Quality for coordinating environmental matters at the federal level and to serve as the advisor to the President on such matters. The law made all federal actions and proposals that could have significant impact on the environment subject to review by federal, state and local environmental authorities.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA): The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of cultural resources. NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and State Historic Preservation Officers.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): A list of buildings, sites, districts, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. Expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462) and Section 101(a) (1) (A) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Native (indigenous) Species: A species of plant or animal that naturally occurs in an area.

Natural Area: Land managed for retention of its typical or unusual plant or animal types, association or other biotic phenomena or its outstanding scenic, geologic, soil, aquatic features or processes.

Nonpoint Pollution: Pollution from scattered sources, such as automobile traffic, as opposed to pollution from one location, e.g. a manufacturing plant.

Nonuse: Current authorized grazing use (in AUMs) that is not used in a given time period. Nonuse is applied for and authorized on an annual basis.

Nutrient Cycle: Circulation of chemical elements, such as carbon or nitrogen, in specific pathways from the non-living (abiotic) parts of the environment into the organic substances (plants and animals), and then back again into abiotic forms.

Obligate: Restricted to a particular set of environmental conditions.

Objective: A measurable description of a desired future condition that specifies what is to be accomplished, within a location and time.

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV): Any motorized vehicle designed for cross-country travel over any type of natural terrain.

Off-Highway Vehicle Designations: BLM designations used in this document are as follows;

OPEN AREAS: Designated areas and trails where OHVs may operate without restrictions.

LIMITED AREAS: Designated areas and trails where the use of OHVs is subject to restrictions such as limits on the number or types of vehicles allowed or the dates and times of use, limit of use to existing roads and trails, or limit of use to designated roads and trails.

CLOSED AREAS: Areas, roads and trails where the use of OHVs is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.

Overgrazing: Consumption of vegetation by herbivores beyond the endurance of a plant to survive.

Pedestaling: The occurrence of plants or rocks on pedestals where the soil has eroded away from the base of the plant or rock and it has become slightly elevated above the eroded surface of the soil. The height of the pedestals and the degree of root exposure can serve as indicators of the degree of soil loss.

Perennial Plant Species: A plant that has a life cycle of three years or more.

Perennial Stream: A stream or portion of a stream that flows continually.

Permeability Rate (soil): The rate at which gases, liquids (water), or plant roots penetrate or pass through a bulk mass of soil or a layer of soil.

Permittee: One who holds a permit to graze livestock on public land.

Petroglyph: A form of rock art manufactured by incising, scratching or pecking designs into rock surfaces.

Phenology: The study of the time of appearance of characteristic periodic events in the life cycles of organisms in nature and how these events are influenced by environmental factors.

Pictograph: A form of rock art created by applying mineral based or organic paint to rock surfaces.

Plant Community: Assemblage of plant populations in a defined area or physical habitat; an aggregation of plants similar in species composition and structure, occupying similar habitats over the landscape. (See vegetation community type.)

Playa: The usually dry and nearly level lake plain that occupies the lowest part of a closed depression.

Potential Natural Community: The stable biotic (plant and/or animal) community that would become established on an ecological site if all successional stages were completed without human interference under present environmental conditions.

Predator: An animal that preys on one or more other animals.

Prescribed Fire (Prescribed Burn): A controlled wild land fire ignited by humans under specified conditions, to accomplish specific, planned resource objectives. This practice is also known as “controlled burning”.

Primitive: One of the six classes of the recreation opportunity spectrum. Primitive areas offer recreation opportunities for isolation from the sights and sounds of human activities, where a visitor can feel a part of the natural environment, experience a high degree of challenge and risk, and use outdoor skills.

Properly Functioning Condition (Riparian-wetlands): Riparian-wetland areas are functioning properly when adequate vegetation, landform, or large woody debris is present to dissipate stream energy associated with high water flows, thereby reducing erosion and improving water quality, filter sediment, capture bed load, and aid in floodplain development, improve floodwater retention and groundwater recharge, develop root masses that stabilize stream banks against cutting action, develop diverse ponding and channel characteristics to provide the habitat and water depth, duration, and temperature necessary for fish production, waterfowl breeding, and other uses, and supporting greater biodiversity. The functioning condition of riparian-wetland areas is influenced by landform, soil, water, and vegetation.

Properly Functioning Condition (Uplands): Uplands are functioning properly when the existing vegetation and ground cover maintain soil conditions capable of sustaining natural biotic communities. The functioning condition of uplands is influenced by landform, soil, water, and vegetation.

Proposed Species: A species of plant or animal formally proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

Public Land: Any land and interest in land owned by the United States of America and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management, without regard to how the United States acquired ownership, except:

- Lands located on the outer continental shelf
- Lands held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos
- Lands, which the United States retains the minerals, but the surface is private

Range Condition: The present state of the plant community on a range site in relation to the potential natural plant community for that site.

Range Improvement: A structure, development or treatment used to rehabilitate, protect or improve the public lands to advance range betterment.

Range Management: The science and art of optimizing the returns from rangelands in those combinations most desired by and suitable to society through the manipulation of range ecosystems.

Range Site: Rangeland that differs in its ability to produce a characteristic natural plant community. A range site is the product of all the environmental factors responsible for its development. It is capable of supporting a native plant community typified by an association of species that differ from other range sites in the kind or proportion of species or in total production.

Rangeland Condition (Ecological): The present state of the vegetation on a range site in relation to the climax (natural potential) plant community for that site. It is an expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a plant community resemble that of the climax plant community for that site. Rangeland condition is basically an ecological rating of the plant community. Four classes are used to express the degree to which the composition of the present plant community reflects that of the climax:

Condition Class	Range Site
Excellent	76-100
Good	51-75
Fair	26-50
Poor	0-25

Rangeland Condition Trend: The direction of change in rangeland condition.

Raptor: Any predatory bird (such as falcon, hawk, eagle, or owl) that has feet with sharp talons or claws adapted for seizing prey and a hooked beak for shearing flesh.

Reach: A continuous unbroken stretch of a stream with homogeneous characteristics; a section of stream between two tributaries of that stream.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A continuum used to characterize recreation opportunities in terms of, setting, activity and experience opportunities. Six classes are included: Primitive, Semiprimitive Nonmotorized, Semiprimitive Motorized, Roaded natural, Rural and Modern urban.

Recruitment: Addition to a plant or animal population from all sources, including reproduction, immigration, and stocking.

Right-of-Way (ROW): An easement or permit, which authorizes public land to be used for a specified purpose that generally requires a long narrow strip of land. Examples are roads, power lines, pipelines, etc.

Recreation Visitor Day: An aggregation of 12 visitor hours. A visitor hour is the presence of one or more persons on land and water for outdoor recreation for periods totaling 60 minutes; one person for one hour, two persons for one-half hour and so on.

Resource Advisory Council (RAC): A group established pursuant to 43 CFR 1780 and other authorities to advise BLM on resource management issues. In the California Desert District, the California Desert District Advisory Council serves as the RAC.

Riparian: The transition area between an aquatic ecosystem and an adjacent terrestrial ecosystem identified by soil characteristics or distinctive vegetation communities that require free or unbound water.

Riparian Zone: The banks and adjacent areas of water bodies, water courses, seeps, springs and meadows, whose waters provide soil moisture sufficiently in excess of that otherwise available locally so as to provide a more moist habitat than that of contiguous plains and uplands.

Roaded Natural: One of the six classes of the recreation opportunity spectrum. Roaded natural areas offer about equal opportunities for affiliation with other user groups or isolation from sights and sounds from human activity. Such areas provide the opportunity for visitors to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities are not very important except in specific challenging activities. The practice of outdoor skills may be important. Opportunities for both motorized and non-motorized recreation are present.

Rock Art (Petroglyph or Pictograph): An archaic to modern cultural site type consisting of incised or painted figures such as people, animals, plants or abstracts on a rock surface.

Rock Shelter: A cultural site representative of all periods consisting of an area protected by an overhanging cliff. Often associated with the same materials as a campsite or rock art.

Runoff: A general term used to describe the portion of precipitation on the land that ultimately reaches streams; may include channel and non-channel flow.

Rural: One of the six classes of the recreation opportunity spectrum. In rural areas, opportunities to experience recreation in affiliation with groups and individuals are prevalent, as is the convenience of recreation sites. These factors are generally more important than the natural setting. Opportunities for wild land challenges, risk taking, and testing of outdoor skills are unimportant except in activities involving challenge and risk.

Sand: Individual rock and mineral fragments in a soil that range in diameter from 0.05 to 2.0 millimeters. Most sand grains consist of quartz, but they may be of any mineral composition. The textural class name of any soil that contains 85% or more sand and less than 10% clay.

Scale: The degree of resolution used in observing and measuring ecosystem processes, structures and changes over space and time.

Season of Use: The time during which livestock grazing is permitted on a given area, as specified in the grazing permit and/or terms and conditions.

Section: One square mile or 640 acres.

Sediment: Solid, clastic material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by water, wind, or ice and has come to rest on the earth's surface.

Seeps: Groundwater discharge areas where water oozes from the ground to form a pool. In general, seeps have less water flow than a spring.

Semi Primitive Motorized Recreation: One of the six classes of the recreation opportunity spectrum. Semi primitive motorized areas offer some opportunities for isolation from the sights and sounds of human activities, but this is not as important as opportunities for primitive recreation. Use of these areas involves the opportunities for visitors to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and use outdoor skills. Such an area provides explicit opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.

Semi Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation: One of the six classes of the recreation opportunity spectrum. Semi primitive non-motorized areas offer some opportunities for isolation from the sights and sounds of human activities, but this is not as important as opportunities for primitive recreation. Use of these areas involves the opportunities for visitors to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and use outdoor skills.

Seral Stage (State): Pertaining to the successional stages of biotic communities. One of a series of biotic communities that follow one another in time on any given ecological site (See Succession).

Severe Use: Utilization in excess of 80%.

Sex Ratio: The ratio existing between the number of male and female animals within a given herd, band or population.

Sheet Erosion: The removal of a fairly uniform layer of soil or materials from the land surface by rainfall or runoff water.

Short-Term Impacts: Impacts that will occur for ten years or less.

Silt: Sedimentary material consisting primarily of mineral particles intermediate in size between sand and clay.

Sinuosity: Pertaining to the curves, bends, or turns in watercourses.

Slight use: Indicates that 0 to 20% of the current years forage production has been eaten or destroyed by grazing animals.

Soil: (a) The unconsolidated mineral material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as the natural medium for the growth of plants. (b) The unconsolidated mineral matter of the surface of the earth that has been influenced by genetic and environmental factors including parent material, climate, topography, and biota all acting over time and producing soil that differs from the parent material in physical, chemical, biological and morphological properties and characteristics.

Soil Associations: (a) A group of defined and named taxonomic soil units occurring together in an individual and characteristic pattern over a geographic region, comparable to plant associations in many ways. (b) A soil-mapping unit in which two or more defined taxonomic groups occurring together in a characteristic pattern are combined because of map scale or intermixing of taxonomic units.

Soil Compaction: A decrease in the volume of soil as a result of compression stress (e.g. from livestock trampling or repeated passages by heavy vehicles).

Soil (Ground) Cover: The percentage of material, other than bare ground, covering the land surface. Soil cover may include live vegetation, standing dead vegetation, plant litter, cobble, gravel, stones, and bedrock.

Soil Depth:

Lower Boundary in inches	
Very shallow	0-12
Shallow	12-20
Moderately Deep	20-36
Deep	36-40
Very Deep	40-+

Soil Productivity: Capacity of a soil to produce biomass through plant growth.

Soil Profile: A succession of soil zones or horizons beginning at the surface that have been developed through normal soil forming processes.

Soil Series: A group of soils having genetic horizons (layers) that, except for texture of the surface layer, have similar characteristics and arrangement in the profile.

Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): An area where special management or intensive recreation management is needed. Recreation activity plans are required, and greater managerial investment in facilities or supervision can be anticipated.

Special Status Species: Plant or animal species listed as endangered, threatened, candidate, or sensitive by federal or state governments.

Species: A fundamental category of plant or animal classification.

Species Richness: Number of species, either in total or by some grouping scheme.

Standards of Rangeland Health: A description of conditions needed to sustain public land health; relative to all uses.

State Land: Lands administered by the State Land Department.

Succession: An orderly process of community development that involves changes in species structure and community processes with time. Succession is reasonably directional and therefore, predictable.

Suspended Non-Use: AUMs withdrawn from authorized use; may potentially be re-authorized for use if range conditions improve.

Sustainability: The ability to maintain diversity, productivity, resilience to stress, health, renewability, and yields of desired values, resource uses, products, or services over time in an ecosystem while maintaining its integrity.

Sustained Yield: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple uses.

Territory: The defended part of an animal's range.

Terms and Conditions: The provisions and stipulations specified by the BLM as a part of a livestock grazing lease or permit or other land use authorization.

Threatened Species: Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

Transition Period: The period of time between completion and adoption of these standards and guidelines and their being placed in operational effect at the individual grazing permit terms and conditions level.

Trap: A relatively small enclosure used as a temporary holding or catching area.

Unit Resource Analysis (URA): A comprehensive display of inventory and analysis of resources data and an analysis of the current use, production, condition, trend, and use potential and opportunity within a planning unit. The term and document structure is no longer a part of current planning procedures, but may still be found in older planning documents that are still applicable.

Upland: Land at a higher elevation than the alluvial plain or low stream terrace; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Utilization: The portion of the current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals.

Vegetative Community Type: The species or various combinations of species that have similar stature, morphology and appearance and dominate or appear to dominate an area of rangeland, as characteristic of the plant community).

Vegetation Status: The expression of the relative degree to which the kinds, proportions, and amounts of plants in a community resemble that of the potential plant community (see early seral, mid-seral, late seral and potential plant community).

Viable populations: Populations of plants and/or animals that persist for a specified period of time across their range despite normal fluctuations in population and environmental conditions.

Viewshed: The landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.

Vigor (Plant): Pertaining to characteristics such as a mix of plants with normal growth on the basis of height, color, seed production, rhizome and stolon production, and annual biomass production.

Visual Resources: Visible features of the landscape including land, water, vegetation, and animals.

Visual Resource Management (VRM): The planning, designing and implementation of management objectives for maintaining scenic value and visual quality on public lands.

Wetlands: An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wilderness Characteristics: Identified by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act; namely size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation, and supplemental values such as geological, archeological, historical, ecological, scenic, or other features. It is required that the area possess at least 5,000 contiguous acres or more or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; be substantially natural or generally appear to have been formed primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man being substantially unnoticeable, and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Wilderness Study Areas (WSA): A roadless area, which has been found to have wilderness characteristics.

Wilderness Study Criteria: The criteria and quality standards developed in the Wilderness Study Policy to guide planning efforts in the wilderness EISs.

Wild Free-Roaming Horses or Burros: Any and all unbranded and unclaimed horses, burros and their progeny that have used public lands on or after December 15, 1971, or that use these lands as all or part of their habitat.

Wild Horse Area: An area of the public lands that provides habitat for one or more wild horse herds.

Wildlife: All living fauna that exists or potentially exists in the area.

Woody Riparian Species: Plant species such as trees, shrubs, or bushes found in riparian-wetland areas.

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