GLOSSARY

Activity Plan: Site-specific plan which precedes actual development. This is the most detailed level of BLM planning.

Actual Use: The amount of animal unit months consumed by livestock based on the numbers of livestock and grazing dates submitted by the livestock operator and confirmed by periodic field checks by the BLM.

Air Quality: Refers to standards for various classes of land as designated by the Clean Air Act (as amended).

All-Terrain Vehicle: A wheeled or tracked vehicle, other than a snowmobile or work vehicle, designed primarily for recreational use or for the transportation of property or equipment exclusively on undeveloped road rights of way, marshland, open country or other unprepared surfaces.

Allotment: An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but may also include other federally managed, state owned, and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment.

Allotment Categorization: Grazing allotments and rangeland areas used for livestock grazing are assigned to an allotment category during resource management planning. Allotment categorization is used to establish priorities for distributing available funds and personnel during plan implementation to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland resources. Categorization is also used to organize allotments into similar groups for purposes of developing multiple use prescriptions, analyzing site-specific and cumulative impacts, and determining trade-offs. The three categories, in order of priority for management, are I (improve), M (maintain), and C (custodial).

Allotment Management Plan: A written program of livestock grazing management, including supportive measures if required, designed to attain specific management goals in a grazing allotment.

Alluvium: Any sediment deposited by flowing water, as in a riverbed, floodplain, or delta.

Amendment: The process for considering or making changes in the terms, conditions, and decisions of approved Resource Management Plans or Management Framework Plans using the prescribed provisions for resource management planning appropriate to the proposed action or circumstances. Usually only one or two issues are considered that involve only a portion of the planning area.

Animal Unit Month: A standardized measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one cow unit or its equivalent for 1 month. Approximately 800 pounds of forage.

Assessment: The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

Avoidance Areas: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and Section 302 permits, leases, and easements would be strongly discouraged. Authorizations made in avoidance areas would have to be compatible with the purpose for which the area was designated and not otherwise feasible on lands outside the avoidance area.

Basalt: Fine-grained, dark-colored igneous rock that is extrusive, high in mafic minerals, and low in silica.

Bedload: Sediment in a stream that moves by sliding, rolling, or bouncing on or near the streambed.

Big Game: Large species of wildlife that are hunted, such as elk, mule or white-tailed deer, moose, bighorn sheep, and pronghorn antelope.

Biological Assessment: The gathering and evaluation of information on endangered and threatened species and designated critical habitat. Required when a management action potentially conflicts with endangered or threatened species, the biological assessment is the way federal agencies enter into formal consultation with the USFWS and describe a proposed action and the consequences to the species the action would affect.

Cambrian: The oldest of the periods of the Paleozoic Era; also the system of strata deposited during that period.

Candidate Species: Any species included in a *Federal Register* notice of review that are being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS.

Canopy: The uppermost layer consisting of the crowns of trees or shrubs in a forest or woodland.

Channel: An open conduit either naturally or artificially created which periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

Clean Air Act: Federal legislation governing air pollution.

Closed: Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses; refer to specific definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Closed Area or Trail: Designated areas and trails where the use of off-road vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited. The use of off-road vehicles in closed areas may be allowed only with the approval of the authorized officer.

Closed Road: A road or segment that is restricted from certain types of use during certain seasons of the year. The prohibited use and the time period of closure are specified.

Code of Federal Regulations: The official, legal tabulation or regulations directing federal government activities.

Community: An assemblage of plant and animal populations in a common spatial arrangement.

Conformance: That a proposed action shall be specifically provided for in the land use plan or, if not specifically mentioned, shall be clearly consistent with the goals, objectives, or standards of the approved land use plan.

Consistency: The proposed land use plan does not conflict with officially approved plans, programs, and policies of tribes, other Federal agencies, and State, and local governments to the extent practical within Federal law, regulation, and policy.

Council on Environmental Quality: An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews Federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Cover: Any form of environmental protection that helps an animal stay alive (mainly shelter from weather and concealment from predators).

Critical Habitat: An area occupied by a threatened or endangered species "on which are found those physical and biological features (1) essential to the conservation of the species, and (2) which may require special management considerations or protection."

Cultural Resources: Nonrenewable elements of the physical and human environment including archaeological remains (evidence of prehistoric or historic human activities) and sociocultural values traditionally held by ethnic groups (sacred places, traditionally utilized raw materials, etc.).

Cumulative Impact: The impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or 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 taking place over a period of time.

Designated Roads and Trails: Specific roads and trails where some types of motorized vehicle use are allowed either seasonally or yearlong.

Discharge (Water): The rate of flow or volume of water flowing in a stream at a given place or within a given period of time.

Discharged Use: A cultural property category indicating that the property has no remaining identifiable use (BLM Manual 8110.42).

Discovery: Knowledge of the presence of valuable minerals within the lines of a location, or in such proximity thereto as to justify a reasonable belief in their existence. Discovery is an extremely important to public lands mining because the Mining Law of 1872 provides that mining claims can be located only after a discovery is made.

Dispersed/Extensive Recreation: Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

Diurnal: Describes a cyclic event recurring daily; or the nature or habit of an organism to be active during daylight hours.

Diversity: The relative abundance of wildlife species, plant species, communities, habitats, or habitat features per unit of area.

Easement: A right afforded a person or agency to make limited use of another's real property for access or other purposes.

Ecosystem: A complete, interacting system of living organisms and the land and water that make up their environment; the home places of all living things, including humans.

Endangered Species: A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior, and as is further defined by the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental Assessment: A concise public document that analyzes the environmental impacts of a proposed federal action and provides sufficient evidence to determine the level of significance of the impacts.

Environmental Impact Statement: A detailed written statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

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

Exclusion Area: Areas with sensitive resource values where rights-of-way and 302 permits, leases, and easements would not be authorized.

Extensive Recreation Management Area: Areas where significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and explicit recreation management is not required. Minimal management actions related to the Bureau's stewardship responsibilities are adequate in these areas.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: Public Law 94-579. October 21, 1976, often referred to as the BLM' s "Organic Act," which provides the majority of the BLM's legislated authority, direction, policy, and basic management guidance.

Federal Register: A daily publication that reports Presidential and Federal Agency documents.

Fishery: Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

Flood Plain: The relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water that has been or might be covered by floodwater.

Forage: All browse and herbaceous foods available to grazing animals, which may be grazed or harvested for feeding.

Goal: A broad statement of a desired outcome. Goals are usually not quantifiable and may not have established time frames for achievement.

Grazing System: The manipulation of livestock grazing to accomplish a desired result.

Guidelines: Actions or management practices that may be used to achieve desired outcomes, sometimes expressed as best management practices. Guidelines may be identified during the land use planning process, but they are not considered a land use plan decision unless the plan specifies that they are mandatory.

Habitat: A specific set of physical conditions that surround a species, group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major constituents of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and living space.

Herbaceous: Pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stem plant) as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees.

Historic: Period wherein nonnative cultural activities took place, based primarily upon European roots, having no origin in the traditional Native American culture(s).

Home Range: The area in which an animal travels in the scope of natural activities.

Impact: A modification of the existing environment caused by an action (such as construction or operation of facilities).

Impacts (or Effects): Environmental consequences (the scientific and analytical basis for comparison of alternatives) as a result of a proposed action. Effects may be either direct, which are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place, or indirect, which are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable, or cumulative.

Implementation Plan: A site-specific plan written to implement decisions made in a land use plan. An implementation plans usually selects and applies best management practices to meet land use plan objectives. Implementation plans are synonymous with “activity” plans. Examples of implementation plans include interdisciplinary management plans, habitat management plans, and allotment management plans.

Interdisciplinary Team: A group of individuals with different training, representing the physical sciences, social sciences, and environmental design arts, assembled to solve a problem or perform a task. The members of the team proceed to a solution with frequent interaction so that each discipline may

provide insights to any stage of the problem and disciplines may combine to provide new solutions. The number and disciplines of the members preparing the plan vary with circumstances. A member may represent one or more discipline or Bureau program interest.

Interior Board of Land Appeals: The Department of the Interior, Office of Hearings and Appeals board that acts for the Secretary of the Interior in responding to appeals of decisions on the use and disposition of public lands and resources. Because the Interior Board of Land Appeals acts for and on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, its decisions usually represent the Department's final decision but are subject to the courts.

Jurisdiction: The legal right to control or regulate use of a transportation facility. Jurisdiction requires authority, but not necessarily ownership.

Land Use Plan: A set of decisions that establish management direction for land within an administrative area, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA; an assimilation of land-use-plan-level decisions developed through the planning process, regardless of the scale at which the decisions were developed.

Leasable Minerals: Those minerals or materials designated as leasable under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920. They include coal, phosphate, asphalt, sulfur, potassium, and sodium minerals, and oil, gas, and geothermal.

Limited Areas or Trails: Designated areas or trails where the use of off-road vehicles is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types or vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions), limiting use to existing roads and trails, or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Under the designated roads and trails designation, use would be allowed only on roads and trails that are signed for use. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Limits of Acceptable Change: A framework for establishing acceptable and appropriate resource and social conditions in recreation settings. A system of management planning.

Locatable Minerals: Minerals subject to exploration, development, and disposal by staking mining claims as authorized by the Mining Law of 1872, as amended. This includes deposits of gold, silver, and other uncommon minerals not subject to lease or sale.

Management Decision: A decision made by the BLM to manage public lands. Management decisions include both land use plan decisions and implementation decisions.

Management Situation Analysis: Assessment of the current management direction. It includes a consolidation of existing data needed to analyze and resolve identified issues, a description of current BLM management guidance, and a discussion of existing problems and opportunities for solving them.

Mineral Entry: The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any locatable minerals it may contain.

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

Mineral Materials: Materials such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumice, pumicite, and clay, that are not obtainable under the mining or leasing laws but that can be acquired under the Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

Mineral Withdrawal: A formal order that withholds federal lands and minerals from entry under the Mining Law of 1872 and closes the area to mineral location (staking mining claims) and development.

Mining Claim: A parcel of land that a miner takes and holds for mining purposes, having acquired the right of possession by complying with the Mining Law and local laws and rules. A single mining claim may contain as many adjoining locations as the locator may make or buy. There are four categories of mining claims: lode, placer, millsite, and tunnel site.

Moraine: An accumulation of boulders, stones, and other earth debris carried and deposited by a glacier.

Multiple Use: The management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the lands for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some lands for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the lands and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or greatest unit output.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards: The allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public outdoor) air. National ambient air quality standards are based on the air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare). Welfare is defined as including (but not limited to) effects on soils, water, crops, vegetation, human-made materials, animals, wildlife, weather, visibility, climate, and hazards to transportation, as well as effects on economic values and on personal comfort and well-being.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969: An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment and promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere and stimulate the health and welfare of man; enriches the understanding or the ecological systems and natural resources important to the Nation, and establishes the Council on Environmental Quality.

National Register of Historic Places: A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, significant in American history, architecture, archaeology and culture, established by the "Historic Preservation Act" of 1966 and maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: A system of nationally designated rivers and their immediate environments that have outstanding scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, and other similar values and are preserved in a free-flowing condition. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that may have some development along their shorelines and may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past, (2) scenic—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads, and (3) wild—rivers or sections of rivers free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trails, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Noxious Weeds: A plant species designated by Federal or State law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or nonnative, new, or not common to the United States.

Objective: A description of a desired condition for a resource. Objectives can be quantified and measured and, where possible, have established time frames for achievement.

Open: Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. Refer to specific program definitions found in law, regulations, or policy guidance for application to individual programs.

Off-Highway Vehicle (off-road vehicle): Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: (1) Any nonamphibious registered motorboat; (2) Any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle while being used for emergency purposes; (3) Any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorized officer, or otherwise officially approved; (4) Vehicles in official use; and (5) Any combat or combat support vehicle when used in times of national defense emergencies.

Official Use: Use by an employee, agent, or designated representative of the Federal Government or one of its contractors, in the course of his employment, agency, or representation.

Open Areas and Trails: Designated areas and trails where off-road vehicles may be operated, subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards or an area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, subject to standards.

Outstandingly Remarkable River Values: Values among those listed in Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are "scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other similar values . . .." Other similar values that may be considered include botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Professional judgment is used to determine whether values exist to an outstandingly remarkable degree.

Overstory: The layer of foliage in a forest canopy.

Paleontological Resources (Fossils): The physical remains of plants and animals preserved in soils and sedimentary rock formations. Paleontological resources are important for understanding past environments, environmental change, and the evolution of life.

Particulate Matter: Fine liquid or solid particles suspended in the air and consisting of dust, smoke, mist, fumes, and compounds containing sulfur, nitrogen, and metals.

Passerine Birds: Birds of the order Passeriformes, which includes perching birds and songbirds such as blackbirds, jays, finches, warblers, and sparrows. More than half of all birds belong to this order.

Personal Income: The sum of wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, proprietors' income, rental income of persons, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and transfer payments to persons, less personal contributions for social insurance.

pH: A measure of acidity or hydrogen ion activity. Neutral is pH 7.0. All values below 7.0 are acidic, and all values above 7.0 are alkaline.

Plan: A document that contains a set of comprehensive, long-range decisions concerning the use and management of Bureau-administered resources in a specific geographic area.

Planning Area: A geographical area for which land use and resource management plans are developed and maintained.

Planning Criteria: The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions.

Planning Base: Includes law, regulation, policy, land use plan decisions (e.g., Resource Management Plans, Resource Management Plan Amendments, and Management Framework Plan Amendments), National Environmental Policy Act documents (e.g., Environmental Impact Statements, Administrative Determinations, Environmental Assessments and Categorical Exclusion Reviews), and supporting data (e.g., automated data bases, research and evaluations).

Population: Within a species, a distinct group of individuals that tend to mate only with members of the group. Because of generations of inbreeding, members of a population tend to have similar genetic characteristics.

Potential Wild and Scenic River: A flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

Precambrian Era: The earliest era of geological history, extending from 4.5 billion to 540 million years ago and encompassing 7/8 of the earth's history. Just before the end of the Precambrian, complex multicellular organisms, including animals, evolved.

Prehistoric: Refers to the period wherein Native American cultural activities took place, which were not yet influenced by contact with historic nonnative culture(s).

Prescribed Fire: The introduction of fire to an area under regulated conditions for specific management purposes.

Public Land: Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM, except lands located on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

Range Trend: The direction of change in range condition.

Raptor: Bird of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks such as hawks, owls, vultures, and eagles.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: A planning process that provides a framework for defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum of six classes: primitive, semi-primitive nonmotorized, semiprimitive motorized, roaded natural, rural, and urban. The resulting analysis defines specific geographic areas on the ground, each of which encompasses one of the six classes.

Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Resource Management Plan: A land use plan as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, objectives and actions to be achieved.

Right-of-way: A permit or an easement which authorizes the use of public lands for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, reservoirs, etc.; also, the lands covered by such an easement or permit.

Riparian Area: A form of wetland transition between permanently saturated wetlands and upland areas. Riparian areas exhibit vegetation or physical characteristics that reflect the influence of permanent surface or subsurface water. Typical riparian areas include lands along, adjacent to, or contiguous with perennially and intermittently flowing rivers and streams, glacial potholes, and the shores of lakes and reservoirs with stable water levels. Excluded are ephemeral streams or washes that lack vegetation and depend on free water in the soil.

River Eligibility: Qualification of a river for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System through the determination (professional judgment) that it is free-flowing and, with its adjacent land area, possesses at least one river-related value considered outstandingly remarkable.

Runoff: The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt.

Salable Minerals: Common variety minerals on the public lands, such as sand and gravel, which are used mainly for construction and are disposed of by sales to the general public, or special permits to local governments and non-profit organizations.

Scenic Quality: The degree of harmony, contrast, and variety within a landscape.

Scenic River: A river or section of a river that is free of impoundments and whose shorelines are largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

Scoping: The process of identifying the range of issues, management concerns, preliminary alternatives, and other components of an environmental impact statement or land-use planning document. It involves both internal and public viewpoints.

Sensitive Species: All species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, live in unique habitats, or need special management. Sensitive species include threatened, endangered, and proposed species as classified by the USFWS and National Marine Fisheries Service.

Shrub: A low, woody plant, usually with several stems, that may provide food and/or cover for animals.

Spawning Gravels: Stream-bottom gravels where fish deposit and fertilize their eggs. The covering of these gravels with silt can block the supply of oxygen to the eggs or serve as a cementing agent to prevent fry from emerging.

Special Recreation Management Area: Areas that require explicit recreation management to achieve recreation objectives and provide specific recreation opportunities.

Special Status Species: Includes proposed species, listed species, and candidate species under the Endangered Species Act; State-listed species; and BLM State Director-designated sensitive species (see BLM Manual 6840 - Special Status Species Policy).

Standard: A description of the physical and biological conditions or degree of function required for healthy, sustainable lands (e.g., land health standards).

Substrate: The mineral or organic material that forms the bed of a stream; the base upon which an organism lives; the surface on which a plant or animal grows or is attached.

Take: As defined by the Endangered Species Act, "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct."

Thermal Cover: Vegetation or topography that prevents radiational heat loss, reduces wind chill during cold weather, and intercepts solar radiation during warm weather.

Threatened Species: Any plant or animal species defined under the Endangered Species Act as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range; listings are published in the *Federal Register*.

Thrust Fault: A reverse fault that is characterized by a low angle of inclination with reference to a horizontal plane.

Turbidity: Interference to the passage of light through water due to insoluble particles of soil, organics, microorganisms, and other materials.

Uplands: Lands at higher elevations than alluvial plains or low stream terraces; all lands outside the riparian-wetland and aquatic zones.

Utilization (rangeland): The proportion of the current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals. Utilization is usually expressed as a percentage.

Visual Resources: The visible physical features of a landscape (topography, water, vegetation, animals, structures, and other features) that constitute the scenery of an area.

Visual Resource Management Classes (definition of).

Class I. The objective of this class is to maintain a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans. It is applied to designated wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, some natural areas, wild portions of the wild scenic rivers, and other similar situations where management activities are to be restricted.

Class II. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

Class III. The objective of this class is to design proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts to the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) caused by a management activity may be evident and begin to attract attention in the characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0 to ½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the Field Manager is required on case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards, and if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Class IV. The objective of this class is to provide for management activities that require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Contrasts may attract attention and be a dominant feature of the landscape in terms of scale however, the change should repeat the basic elements (form, line, color, and texture) inherent in the characteristic landscape. Structures located in the foreground distance zone (0 to ½ mile) often create a contrast that exceeds the VRM class, even when designed to harmonize and blend with the characteristic landscape. This may be especially true when a distinctive architectural motif or style is designed. Approval by the Field Manager is required on a case-by-case basis to determine whether the structure(s) meet the acceptable VRM class standards, and if not, whether they add acceptable visual variety to the landscape.

Rehabilitation Area. Change is needed or change may add acceptable visual variety to an area. This class applies to areas where the naturalistic character has been disturbed to a point where rehabilitation is needed to bring it back into character with the surrounding landscape. This class would apply to areas identified in the scenic evaluation where the quality class has been reduced because of unacceptable cultural modification. The contrast is inharmonious with the characteristic landscape. It may also be applied to areas that have the potential for enhancement; i.e., add acceptable visual variety to an area or site. It should be considered an interim or short-term classification until one of the other VRM class objectives can be reached through rehabilitation or enhancement. The desired visual resource management class should be identified.

Water Table: The surface in a groundwater body where the water pressure is atmospheric. It is the level at which water stands in a well that penetrates the water body just far enough to hold standing water.

Watershed: All lands that are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified point on a stream.

Wetlands: Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water often and long enough to support and under normal circumstances do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Wild, Scenic or Recreational River: The three classes of what is traditionally referred to as a "Wild and Scenic River." Designated river segments are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, and the segments cannot overlap.

Wilderness: A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions and that (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

Wild River: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Wildland Fire: Any nonstructure fire, other than prescribed fire, that occurs in the wildland.

Winter Range: Habitat used by wildlife during winter.

Withdrawal: An action that restricts the use of public lands by removing them from the operation of some or all of the public land or mining laws.