

## 6.0 GLOSSARY AND INDEX

### GLOSSARY

**100-year floodplain**—The area that would be inundated by a flood with a recurrence interval of once in 100 years, on average. This can also be stated as areas that have a 1 percent chance of being flooded in a given year. (See **Floodplain**.)

**A-weighted sound level**—The weighting of sound over the frequency spectrum to account for the sensitivity of the human ear.

**Access road**—Roads constructed to each structure site first to build the tower and line, and later to maintain and repair it. Access roads are built where no roads exist. Where county roads or other access is already established, access roads are built as track roads to the structure site (see **track roads**). Access roads are maintained even after construction, except where they pass through cultivated land. There, the road is restored for crop production after construction is completed.

**Agriculture**—A habitat type characterized by land planted and kept in crops.

**Alluvium**—Deposits left by flowing water, usually clay, silt, sand, or gravel.

**Alternative/Alternate**—Options that a federal agency considers to address the significant issues and meet the purpose of and need for a proposed project in an environmental analysis. Also used to describe other routes under consideration.

**American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA)**—AIRFA was passed in 1978 to protect the rights of American Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians to engage in traditional cultural practices. Rights ensured under the law include the possession of sacred objects, the practice of traditional ceremonies, and the access to sacred sites. The Act requires federal agencies to provide access to and use of sacred sites (within specified limitations) and to eliminate interference in the practice of Native religions.

**Ampere (A)**—A unit of measurement of electric current, which is the rate that electrons flow in a wire; one ampere is  $6.023 \times 10^{23}$  electrons per second. The measurement is similar to gallons per minute of water in a pipe.

**Analysis Area**—A 1,000-foot-wide area centered over the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives, as well as a 50-foot-wide area centered over any access roads that extend outside of the 1,000-foot-wide area.

**Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA)**—ARPA (16 U.S.C. 470) was signed into law in 1979. The purpose of the Act is:

*...to secure, for the present and future benefit of the American people, the protection of archaeological resources and sites which are on public lands and Indian lands, and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals having collections of archaeological resources and data which were obtained before the date of the enactment of this Act.*

The Act established a permitting process for the survey and excavation of archaeological materials on Federal and Tribal lands, stipulating that only qualified professionals meeting the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines may be lawfully authorized to conduct such work.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**—An area where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important cultural, historic, or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

**Area of Potential Effect (APE)**—The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist.

**Attainment area**—An area considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality standards as defined in the Clean Air Act.

**Aquatic**—Occurring in, or closely associated with, water.

**Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act**—A law that prohibits the take, possession, selling, purchasing, bartering, or transporting of live or dead bald or golden eagles, or any parts, nests, or eggs of these birds.

**Bay (of a substation)**—A substation “bay” is the physical location within a substation fenced area where the high-voltage circuit breakers and associated steel transmission line termination structures, high-voltage switches, bus supports, controls, and other equipment are installed.

**Bedrock**—Solid rock beneath the soil and superficial rock.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)**—A practice or combination of practices that are the most effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of environmental impact, including but not limited to, pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals.

**Big game**—Large mammals that may be taken by hunters, pursuant to local government restrictions and regulations.

**Biological Assessment**—Information prepared by, or under the direction of, a Federal agency to determine whether a proposed action is likely to: (1) adversely affect listed species or designated critical habitat; (2) jeopardize the continued existence of species that are proposed for listing; or (3) adversely modify proposed critical habitat. Biological assessments must be prepared for "major construction activities." See 50 CFR §402.02. The outcome of this biological assessment determines whether formal consultation or a conference is necessary. [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR §402.12]

**Biological Opinion**—Document which includes: (1) the opinion of the Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service as to whether or not a Federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat; (2) a summary of the information on which the opinion is based; and (3) a detailed discussion of the effects of the action on listed species or designated critical habitat. [50 CFR §402.02, 50 CFR §402.14(h)]

**Blackout**—The unplanned loss of all electrical service to a group of users in a geographical area.

**Blading**—Use of a bulldozer, grader, or other construction equipment to level or shape a travel surface.

**Bog**—Wet, spongy ground; a small marsh or swamp; one type of wetland.

**Border zone**—A zone on each side of the wire zone to the edge of the ROW, maintained to exclude vegetation more than 25 feet tall.

**Bull trout**—Members of the char subgroup of the salmon family (salmonids), which also include the Dolly Varden, lake trout, and Arctic char.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**—A federal agency under the U.S. Department of the Interior that is responsible for carrying out a variety of programs for the management and conservation of resources on 258 million acres. The BLM manages multiple resources and uses, including energy and minerals, timber, forage, recreation, wild horse and burro herds, fish and wildlife habitat, wilderness areas, and archaeological, paleontological and historical sites. The BLM has been designated as the lead federal agency for the environmental review of the Gateway West Transmission Line Project.

**Candidate species**—Plant and animal taxa considered for possible addition to the List of Endangered and Threatened Species. These are taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has on file sufficient information on biological vulnerability and threat(s) to support issuance of a proposal to list, but issuance of a proposed rule is currently precluded by higher priority listing actions. [61 FR 7596-7613 (February 28, 1996)]

**Capacity**—Refers to the amount of power a transmission facility (line, transformer, etc.) can reliably deliver. Capacity is measured in megawatts and is limited by the current (in amperes) that the facility can carry or the minimum voltage levels present at a substation (under either steady-state or outage conditions).

**Carbon monoxide (CO)**—An odorless and colorless gas formed from one atom of carbon and one atom of oxygen.

**Census block**—A subdivision of a census tract that typically contains between 600 and 3,000 people.

**Census block group**—Smallest area for which a census compiles sample data; composed of census blocks.

**Census County Division (CCD)**—A subdivision of a county that is a relatively permanent statistical area established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state and local government authorities.

**Census tract**—A subdivision of a county smaller than a CCD that often follows visible features, but may also follow governmental boundaries and other non-visible features; homogenous with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions.

**Centerline**—A line on a map or flagged on the ground that indicates the location of a linear feature such as a road or a transmission line. The linear feature is further defined

by its total width, either for construction or operation, which is bisected into two equal parts by the centerline.

**Circuit**—An electrical device that provides a path for electrical current to flow, or along which an electrical current can be carried. In the case of high-voltage transmission, a set of wires energized at transmission voltages extending beyond a substation which has its own protection zone and set of breakers for isolation.

**Clean Water Act (CWA; 33 U.S.C. Section 1251 et seq., formerly the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972)**—Enacted with the intent of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters of the U.S. The CWA requires states to set standards to protect, maintain, and restore water quality through the regulation of point source and certain non-point source discharges to surface water. Section 404 of the CWA also requires the USACE to administer permits for dredge or fill in waters of the U.S. Pursuant to section 401 of the federal CWA, any permit or license issued by a federal agency for an activity that may result in a discharge into waters of the U.S. requires certification from the state in which the discharge originates. This requirement allows each state to have input into federally approved projects that may affect its waters (rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands) and to ensure the projects would comply with state water quality standards and any other water quality requirements of state law.

**Clean Water Act 303(d) list**—List of waterbodies that do not meet water quality standards.

**“Cold” rebuild**—Rebuilding an existing transmission line without electricity flowing in the conductors during construction.

**Colluvium**—Rock fragments, sand, etc., that accumulate on steep slopes or at the foot of cliffs.

**Common mode failure**—An arrangement in which any failures are on lines adjacent to each other on a common transmission tower or two parallel transmission lines in close proximity to each other, transformers sharing the same breaker in a substation bay, etc.

**Community of shared interest**—Geographically dispersed individuals who could experience common conditions of environmental effect.

**Compensatory Mitigation**—Compensatory mitigation means to compensate for remaining unavoidable impacts after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization measures have been applied, by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (see 40 CFR § 1508.20) through the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of resources and their values, services, and functions. Impacts are authorized pursuant to a regulatory or resource management program that issues permits, licenses, or otherwise approves activities. While the term “mitigation” can be used as shorthand for “compensatory mitigation,” “mitigation” is a deliberate expression of the full mitigation hierarchy and “compensatory mitigation” describes only the last phase of that sequence (600 DM 6).

**Conductor**—The wire cable strung between transmission towers through which electric current flows.

**Connected actions**—Actions that are closely related and therefore should be discussed in the same impact statement. Defined by CEQ (40 CFR 1508.25) as actions that are automatically triggered which may require an EIS, cannot or will not proceed unless other actions are taken previously or simultaneously, or if the actions are interdependent parts of a larger action and depend on the larger action for their justification. Connected actions are limited to actions that are currently proposed.

**Concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO)**—A lot or facility, together with any associated treatment works, where both of the following conditions are met: First, animals have been, are, or will be stabled or confined and fed or maintained for a total of 45 days or more in any 12-month period. And secondly, crops, vegetation, forage growth, or post-harvest residues are not sustained over any portion of the operation lot or facility.

**Constraint**—A resource or condition that potentially limits transmission line routes, including areas that are closed by regulations (e.g. municipal airports) or where impacts would be very difficult or impossible to mitigate due to resource protection and other legal requirements.

**Cooperating agency**—A federal, state, or local government agency that has accepted an invitation to participate in the NEPA process by the lead federal agency. The invitation is generally formal and accompanied by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Typically, a cooperating agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental issue which will be addressed by the NEPA analysis EISs (40 CFR 1508).

**Corridor**—For the purposes of this project, the corridor is either: 1) the geographic area within which a transmission line is located or planned to be located (typically used to develop a working alignment for the initial screening of alternatives); if an environmentally sensitive area is found, the transmission line alignment can be shifted within the corridor to avoid adverse impacts to the sensitive area; or 2) a linear area designated by law or in a land use plan that is the preferred location for placement of linear rights of way such as transmission lines.

**Corona**—Corona occurs in regions of high electric field strength on conductors, insulators, and hardware when sufficient energy is imparted to charged particles to cause ionization (molecular breakdown) of the air.

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**—Coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives. CEQ was established within the Executive Office of the President by Congress as part of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and additional responsibilities were provided by the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970.

**Critical habitat**—For ESA-listed species consists of: (1) the specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act on which are found those physical or biological features (constituent elements) (a) essential to the conservation of the species and (b) which may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific

areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of section 4 of the Act, upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. [ESA §3 (5)(A)] Designated critical habitats are described in 50 CFR §17 and 226.

**Crucial range**—Can describe any particular seasonal range or habitat component (often winter or winter/yearlong range in Wyoming) but describes that component which has been documented as the determining factor in a population’s ability to maintain itself at a certain level (theoretically at or above the WGFD population objective) over the long term. [*Report on Standardized Definitions for Seasonal Wildlife Ranges*, Wyoming Chapter of the Wildlife Society, July 1990]

**Cultural resource**—The term “cultural resource” includes all landscapes, buildings, sites, districts, structures, or objects that have been created by or associated with humans and are considered to have historical or cultural value. Cultural resources also include **Traditional Cultural Properties**.

**Culvert**—A corrugated metal or concrete pipe used to carry or divert runoff water from a drainage; usually installed under roads to prevent washouts and erosion.

**Cumulative effects**—Effects that result when the effects of an action are added to or interact with other effects in a particular place and within a particular time. Such impacts may individually have minor impacts, but collectively may have significant impacts.

**Current**—The amount of electrical charge flowing through a conductor (as compared to voltage, which is the force that drives the electrical charge), which is measured in amperes or amps.

**Cushion plants**—Forbs with stems and leaves densely aggregated near the ground surface.

**Day-night sound level (L<sub>dn</sub>)**—A value calculated by averaging the 24-hour hourly L<sub>eq</sub> levels at a given location and adding 10 dB to noise emitted during the nighttime period (10:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.) to account for the increased sensitivity of people to noises that occur at night.

**Dead-end structures**—Heavy towers designed for use where the transmission line loads the tower primarily in tension rather than compression, such as in turning large angles along a line or bringing a line into a substation.

**Debris flow**—Rapid movement of water-charged mixtures of soil, rock, and organic debris down steep stream channels.

**Decibel**—A decibel is a unit for expressing relative difference in power, usually between acoustic signals, equal to 10 times the common logarithm of the ratio of two levels.

**Decommissioning**—Removal of Project facilities at the end of the operational life of the transmission line.

**Demand**—1) The rate at which electric energy is delivered to or by a system or part of a system, generally expressed in kilowatts or megawatts, at a given instant or averaged

over any designated interval of time. 2) The rate at which energy is being used by the customer.

**Depressional areas**—Wetland areas that receive water from overland runoff and precipitation.

**Design features**—Measures or procedures incorporated into the proposed action or an alternative, including measures or procedures which could reduce or avoid adverse impacts. Because these features are built into the proposed action or an alternative, design features are not considered mitigation.

**Dewatering**—The elimination of water from waterways so that excavation can occur.

**Direct effects**—Direct effects are those caused by the Project at the same time and place as the impact, such as soil disturbance.

**Distribution line**—The structures, insulators, conductors, and other equipment used to deliver electricity directly to the customer, including commercial facilities, small factories or residences.

**Distribution underbuild**—Using transmission poles to also carry distribution conductors from existing system taps by situating the distribution lines on cross-arms below the transmission lines.

**Double-circuit transmission line**—A transmission line composed of six electrical phases (two independent circuits of three phases each) and two lightning protection shield wires. One of the lightning protection shield wires is a steel overhead ground wire (OHGW), and the other is an optical ground wire (OPGW).

**Double-contingency**—Utilities are required to conduct analyses for reliability that take into account more than a single event that could affect the grid. More formally, a double-contingency analysis takes into account at least two unlikely, independent, and concurrent changes in process conditions that could trigger a failure in the electrical generation and delivery system.

**Early successional (or early seral)**—An immature forest often characterized by a single-age class and open canopies; stands are between 1 and 30 years old.

**Earthquake buffer**—A specified area beyond which effects from earthquakes of a specified magnitude would not likely damage buildings or structures.

**Easement**—A grant of certain rights to the use of a piece of land. A grant of easement across a private parcel for a transmission line typically includes the right to enter the easement area to build, maintain, and repair transmission facilities, including access roads. Permission for these activities is included in the negotiation process for acquiring easements over private land. The land itself remains in private ownership.

**Edge effect**—Changes in vegetation and animal communities that are caused by one habitat type being immediately adjacent to a different habitat type. Edge effects can include changes in temperature, humidity, and plant and wildlife species present in the area.

**Electric and magnetic fields (EMF)**—Fields describing properties of a location or point in space and its electrical environment, including the forces that would be experienced

by a charged body in that space by virtue of its charge or the movement of charges. The voltage, which is the “pressure,” produces an electric field that moves the electricity through wires. The current produces a magnetic field, which is a measure of how much electricity is flowing. Thus, wherever there is electric current flowing (including through any type of wiring), there is both an electric and a magnetic field.

**Emergent**—Plants that have their bases submerged in water.

**Eminent Domain**—When a utility company acquires property for public use through a court action, in which a court decides that the proposed subsequent use is in the public interest and also determines the compensation to be paid to the owner.

**Encroachment Permit**—Written permission from a landowner to enter a parcel of private property for the purposes of temporary activity, such as surveying, conducting environmental data gathering, etc.

**Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA)**—A law establishing a regulatory system to protect species that are at risk of extinction. NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decide whether to list species as Threatened or Endangered. Under the Act, federal agencies must avoid jeopardy to and aid the recovery of listed species.

**Endangered species**—Any species officially listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or NOAA Fisheries as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their range

**Energy**—In the electric utility industry, it represents the amount of power used or transmitted over a given amount of time.

**Enhancement**—the heightening, intensifying, or improving of one or more resources or values.

**Environmental justice**—A concept concerning disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of a federal agency’s programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**—Part of compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), an EIS is a comprehensive public document that analyzes the impacts of a major federal action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment. When complete, it is a tool for decision making as the EIS describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action, describes alternative actions and provides an analysis of environmental impacts and ways to mitigate such impacts across all alternatives considered in detail. An EIS examines physical and biological resources, resource uses, fire management, special designations, and social and economic conditions.

**Environmental Protection Measures (EPMs)**—Environmental protection measures have been developed by the Companies to maintain environmental quality and meet requirements of various land management plans. These measures apply project-wide unless modified through negotiations with individual landowners or superseded by permits granted by federal, state, or local agencies.

**Ephemeral stream**—One that flows only in direct response to precipitation and whose channel is at all times above the water table.



**Equivalent sound level ( $L_{eq}$ )**—the steady, continuous sound level, over a specified time, which has the same acoustic energy as the actual varying sound levels over that same time.

**Essential habitat**—Those areas possessing the same characteristics as critical habitat for Threatened and Endangered but not species declared critical habitat by the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce. [Wyoming chap. of the Wildlife Society, 1990]

**Exceedence levels (L levels)**—The A-weighted sound level that is exceeded for a specified percentage of the time.

**Executive Order**—A rule or order issued by the president to an executive branch of the government and having the force of law.

**Executive Order 13007**—This order was issued by President Clinton in 1996 in the interest of protecting and preserving Indian religious practices. The order established the responsibility of federal land managers to (to the extent practicable) to “accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners” and to “avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.”

**Executive Order 13175** – Issued by President Clinton in 2006, this order was issued to: “...establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials in the development of Federal policies that have tribal implications, to strengthen the United States government-to-government relationships with Indian tribes, and to reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian tribes.” The order set forth a set of guidelines for federal agencies, mandating consultation and coordination with tribal officials when formulating policy that has “substantial direct effect” on Indian tribes.

**Experiential impact**—Impact that could negatively affect the experience of using or viewing an area.

**Extra-High Voltage Transmission Lines (230 kV; 345 kV; 500 kV)**—Used for transmitting electrical energy over great distances.

- Higher voltage lines are more efficient than lower voltage lines. A higher voltage transmission line will result in fewer losses than a transmission line with a lower voltage.
- Higher voltage lines often have "bundled" conductors, meaning that multiple wires are hung from the same insulator. This increases the amount of power that can be carried on a single circuit.

**Fault**—An event occurring on an electric system such as a short circuit, a broken wire, or an intermittent connection.

**Federally listed**—Species listed as **Threatened** or **Endangered** by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Feasible**—Capable of being accomplished in a successful manner within a reasonable period of time, taking into account economic, environmental, legal, regulatory, technical, and safety factors.

**Firm Demand**—That portion of the **demand** that a power supplier is obligated to provide except when system reliability is threatened or during emergency conditions.

**Flashover**—An electrical discharge through air around or over the surface of insulation, between objects of different potential, caused by placing a voltage across the air space that results in the ionization of the air space.

**Floodplain**—That portion of a river valley adjacent to the stream channel which is covered with water when the stream overflows its banks during flood stage.

**Fly yard**—A Project-material staging area used specifically to support helicopter use.

**Fragmentation**—The breaking up of contiguous areas of vegetation/habitat into smaller patches.

**Forb**—An herbaceous plant that is not a grass or not grasslike.

**Forest Service**—See **U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service**.

**Forest/Woodland**—A habitat type characterized by being dominated by trees. Forests are densely covered by trees and have a continuous or nearly continuous canopy and little shade reaching the forest floor. In a woodland, trees are more widely scattered and sunlight reaches the floor, often supporting an understory of shrubs, grasses, and/or forbs.

**Fugitive dust**—Visible emissions released from sources other than stacks; for instance, dust blown from storage piles, road dust, emissions leaking from sides of buildings or open areas in buildings.

**Functional impact**—Impact that could preclude the use of or access to an area or an activity.

**Gauss**—A unit of magnetic induction.

**General Land Office (GLO)**—The GLO was created in 1812 as an independent agency to oversee the surveying and sale of public lands and was charged with maintaining land survey data for the entire United States and its territories. The agency was later placed under the authority of the Department of the Interior and eventually merged with the Grazing Service to form the BLM. The BLM facilitates public access to GLO data through its website in the form of digital images of federal land patent and survey maps produced between 1820 and 1908.

**Geographic Information System (GIS)**—A computer representation of data that is geographically distributed in three dimensions. These data can be generated and displayed to show their physical location. Each data set with a certain type of information constitutes a “layer” in the GIS. GIS layers can be superimposed to show the spatial relationships of different items.

**Grasslands**—Habitat types dominated by grasses (family Poaceae) with little woody vegetation or other forbs. In the Analysis Area, most grasslands are dominated by introduced grass species, though some native grasslands are present.

**Greenfield route**—A route that would be located away from existing linear corridors, thereby creating a new land use.

**Habitat types**—Communities of plants that typically occur together.

**Hertz (Hz)**—The unit of frequency in cycles per second; power systems in the U.S. operate with a frequency of 60 Hz.

**High Potential Site/High Potential Route Segment**—The term “high potential” in this context pertains to route segments or sites associated with National Historic Trails (NHT) with an increased likelihood of being historically significant. Federal land managers are required to identify such resources under the National Historic Trails System Act.

**High voltage**—Lines with 230 kV or above electrical capacity.

**Histosols**—Soils derived from organic matter often associated with wetland areas.

**Historic property**—Any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior.

**Horizontal boring (HDD; or jack-and-bore)**—An augering operation that simultaneously pushes a 36- to 42-inch steel casing through a crossing (e.g., water crossing) and removes the spoil inside the casing with a rotating auger.

**“Hot” rebuild**—Replacing an existing transmission line and its structures while maintaining power in the existing lines.

**Hub and spoke**—Refers to a transmission system in which each substation is a hub and receives or sends electricity along the spokes, with a backbone connecting the hubs.

**Hydrology**—The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water.

**Idaho Power**—Idaho Power is a wholly owned subsidiary of IDA-CORP, a holding company. Idaho Power is responsible for providing electrical service to its service area, which includes most of southern Idaho and a portion of eastern Oregon, serving more than 480,000 general business customers. Idaho Power is a regulated public utility under the laws of the State of Idaho and is also a public utility under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

**Implosive fittings**—A method of attaching the conductor to the insulator assembly at the dead-end structure. It uses explosives to compress the metal together. Implosive fittings do not require heavy equipment, but do create noise similar to a loud explosion when the primer is struck. The implosive type sleeve is faster to install than hydraulic compression fittings and results in a very secure connection between the conductor and the sleeve. Implosive sleeves are planned for the Project.

**Indian tribe**—An Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including a native village, regional corporation, or village corporation, as those terms are defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Government-to-government

consultation is required for any project between the federal government and the government of any potentially impacted tribe.

**Indirect effects**—Those effects that are caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, such as sedimentation from soil disturbance, but are still reasonably foreseeable.

**Insulators**—A ceramic or other nonconducting material used to keep electrical circuits from jumping over to ground.

**Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) (also known as the Energy Plan for the Future)**—A comprehensive look at present and future demands for electricity, as well as a plan for meeting those demands.

**Intermittent or seasonal stream**—One which flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas.

**Intermountain West**—The region of North America lying west of the Rocky Mountains and east of the Cascade Mountains of Washington and Oregon and the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California

**Invasive species**—A species that is not native to the habitat under consideration and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm (Executive Order 13112). Invasive plants are typically adaptable, aggressive, and have a high reproductive capacity.

**Invertebrates**—Any animal without a backbone or spinal cord; any animal other than a fish, amphibian, reptile, bird, or mammal.

**Irretrievable commitments**—A term that applies to the loss of production, harvest, or use of natural resources. Four example, some or all of the timber production from an area is lost irretrievably while an area is serving as a winter sports site. The production list is irretrievable, but the action is not irreversible. If the use changes, it is possible to resume timber production.

**Irreversible commitments**—A term that describes the loss of future options. Applies primarily to the effects of use of nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, or to those factors, such as soil productivity, that are renewable only over long periods of time.

**Isolated wetlands**—Wetlands that have no connection with any tributary system that flows into traditional navigable waters or interstate waters (e.g., intrastate lakes, streams, prairie potholes, etc.)

**K factor**—A measure of soil susceptibility to erosion and rate of runoff.

**Kcmil (1,000 cmils)**—A quantity of measure for the size of a conductor; kcmil wire size is the equivalent cross-sectional area in thousands of circular mils. A circular mil (cmil) is the area of a circle with a diameter of one thousandth (0.001) of an inch.

**Key Observation Point (KOP)**—Viewing locations chosen to be generally representative of visually sensitive areas where it can be assumed that viewers may be affected by a change in the landscape setting from the Project. Views from KOPs are

described by distance zones and are based on perception thresholds (changes in form, line, color, and texture).

**Kilovolt**—One thousand volts (kV). Also see **volt**.

**Landscape**—For the purposes of the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) policy and related Departmental efforts, a “landscape” is as an area encompassing an interacting mosaic of ecosystems and human systems characterized by a set of common management concerns. The landscape is not defined by the size of the area, but rather by the interacting elements that are relevant and meaningful in a management context. The term “landscape” is not exclusive of areas described in terms of aquatic conditions, such as watersheds, which may represent the appropriate landscape-scale (600 DM 6).

**Landslide**—Any mass-movement process characterized by downslope transport of soil and rock, under gravitational stress, by sliding over a discrete failure surface; or the resultant landform. Can also include other forms of mass wasting not involving sliding (rockfall, etc.).

**Large woody debris (LWD)**—Any piece of downed wood larger than 4 inches in diameter and 6 feet long.

**Lattice tower**—A freestanding steel framework tower that is often used to support electric transmission lines with voltages above 100 kilovolts.

**Laydown yard**—see **Staging Area**

**Lead Agency**—The agency or agencies preparing, or having taken primary responsibility for preparing, an environmental document as required by NEPA. For the Gateway West Transmission Line Project, the BLM is the lead agency.

**Line losses**—Energy consumed by the conductor generating heat during transport of power through each line; a function of load, circuit length, conductor size, and electrical “resistance.”

**Lithic landscape**—An area or region where aboriginal people habitually tested and procured tool stone and lithic materials.

**Lithic scatter**—Consists of stone material that has been left behind or dropped and can include stone tools such as projectile points, knives, or simply debris from stone tool manufacture or lithic procurement activities.

**Load**—The amount of electric power or energy delivered or required at any specified point or points on a system. Load originates primarily at the energy-consuming equipment of customers.

**Load growth**—An increase in demand for electricity typically driven by a variety of events, including population increases and new commercial and industrial projects that provide jobs to that population. (See **Load**.)

**Low-gradient**—With gentle slopes.

**Major stationary source**—a source that emits more than a certain amount of a pollutant as defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The amount of

pollutants allowed for certain new sources is defined by the EPA's New Source Performance Standards.

**Management Area (MA)**—Unit of federal land having different management emphasis or direction.

**Manual 6280**—Provides policies for the management of National Scenic and Historic Trails. Specifically, this manual identifies requirements for the management of congressionally designated NHTs; trails undergoing a National Trail Feasibility Study; trails that are recommended as suitable for National Trail designation through the National Trail Feasibility Study; inventory, planning, management, and monitoring of designated National Scenic and Historic Trails; and data and records management requirements for National Scenic and Historic Trails. The manual also provides guidance on the application of NEPA to NHTs and Trails Under Study.

**Marshaling yard**—See **Staging Area**.

**Mass wasting**—The slow downward slope of rock debris.

**Megawatts (MW)**—A megawatt is one million watts, or one thousand kilowatts; an electrical unit of power.

**Mid-successional (or mid-seral)**—A forest often characterized by a single-age class and closed canopies and most commonly harvested in commercial timber operations; stands are typically between 30 and 80 years old.

**Migratory bird**—A bird that moves seasonally to different ranges to maximize breeding and feeding opportunities.

**Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)**—A law enacted in 1918 that prohibits pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, possessing, selling, bartering, purchasing, delivering, transporting, and receiving any migratory birds, parts, nests, or eggs.

**Milligauss (mG)**—A unit used to measure magnetic field strength; one-thousandth of a gauss.

**Minority community**—A group of people who are considered a minority in the United States population and who experience common conditions of environmental effect. (See **Environmental justice**)

**Mitigation**—**Avoiding** an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; **Minimizing** impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation; **Rectifying** an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; **Reducing** or eliminating an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and **Compensating** for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments. (40 CFR 1508.20)

**Mitigation and Enhancement Portfolio (MEP)**—A plan submitted by the Proponents aimed at offsetting impacts to resources and values and enhancing the resources and values found in the SRBOP.

**Mitigation Hierarchy**—The elements of mitigation, summarized as avoidance, minimization, and compensation, provide a sequenced approach to addressing the foreseeable impacts to resources and their values, services, and functions. First,

impacts should be avoided by altering project design, location, or declining to authorize the project; then minimized through project modifications and permit conditions; and, generally, only then compensated for remaining unavoidable impacts after all appropriate and practicable avoidance and minimization measures have been applied. The DOI policy affirms this hierarchical approach, while recognizing that in limited situations, specific circumstances may exist that warrant an alternative from this sequence, such as when seeking to achieve the maximum benefit to impacted resources and their values, services, and functions (600 DM 6).

**Multipurpose yards**—The multipurpose yards will serve as field offices, reporting locations for workers, parking space for vehicles and equipment, sites for material storage, fabrication assembly and stations for equipment maintenance, and concrete batch plants (also known as a **laydown yard**, **staging area** or **marshaling yard**).

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**—Federal statute, signed into law on January 1, 1970, that contains procedures to ensure that federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account. The two major purposes of the NEPA process are citizen involvement and better informed decisions. The Act establishes national environmental policy and goals for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement of the environment, and it provides a process for implementing these goals within the federal agencies. The Act also establishes the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) and requires an environmental impact statement on all major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. [42 U.S.C. 4332 2(2)(C).]

**National Historic Landmark**—A historic property that the Secretary of the Interior has designated a National Historic Landmark.

**National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)**—The National Historic Preservation Act (Public Law 89-665 and amendments thereto; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) was enacted in 1966. It has had major amendments, primarily additions to expand the effect of the law or to clarify its implementation, in 1980 and 1992. The law contains a strong policy statement supporting historic preservation activities and programs.

**National Historic Trails (NHTs)**—Extended trails which follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance (16 U.S.C.1242 [a]).

**National Historic Trails System Act**—This Act (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009) was passed in 1968 to establish a national trails system, including recreational, scenic, and historic trails. The Act specifies that the Secretary of the Interior and/or the Secretary of Agriculture is responsible for developing and administering the trails system.

**National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)**—Authorized by the NHPA of 1966 (P.L. 102-575), the NRHP is the National Park Service's (NPS) official list of the Nation's historic places that have been determined worthy of historic preservation.

**National Vegetation Classification System (NVCS)**—A hierarchical classification system that defines vegetation associations by species composition, uniform habitat

conditions, and uniform physiognomy (i.e., the general characteristic of the landscape such as shrub-steppe or mixed conifer).

**Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)**—NAGPRA was established in 1990 to provide a means for museums and curation facilities to return certain collected items to Native American and Native Hawaiian groups. The Act pertains to the repatriation of human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony. Federal grants are awarded to indigenous groups and institutions holding collections under the act to assist in the repatriation process, which is overseen by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee.

**New Source Review (NSR)**—Federal pre-construction review for affected sources located in non-attainment areas for air quality.

**Nitrogen oxides**—A group of compounds consisting of various combinations of nitrogen and oxygen atoms.

**No Action Alternative**—The predicted result of the denial of the applications for Right-of-Way Grant and Special Use Permit. Under the No Action Alternative, the Gateway West Project would not be constructed (no new substations, substation expansion, or transmission line).

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries)**—The federal agency that oversees threatened and endangered anadromous fish species.

**Nonattainment area**—An area that does not meet air quality standards set by the Clean Air Act for specified localities and periods.

**Northern Tier Transmission Group (NTTG)**—A group of transmission providers and customers actively involved in the sale and purchase of transmission capacity that delivers electricity in the Pacific Northwest and mountain states.

**Notice of Intent (NOI)**—A public notice, published in the Federal Register, that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered in the decision making for a proposed action. It also provides background information on the proposed project in preparation for the scoping process.

**Notice to Proceed (NTP)**—Letter from a principal (client or owner) to a contractor stating the date the contractor can begin work subject to the conditions of the contract. The performance time of the contract starts from the NTP date.

**Noxious weed**—A legal term, meaning any plant officially designated by a federal, state, or local agency as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife, or property.

**Off-highway vehicle**—Land vehicles mostly used for recreation purposes on public or private trails, beaches or fields, or in the woods; usually not legal to operate on public highways, streets or roads. Examples are all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), off road motorcycles or dirt bikes, snow mobiles and four wheel drive vehicles such as jeeps and trucks.



**Old growth**—A forest typically at least 200 years of age with moderate to low canopy closure; a multi-layered, multi-species canopy dominated by large overstory trees; numerous large snags; heavy accumulations of fallen wood; smaller trees in various age classes, as well as shrubs and herbaceous vegetation in the understory and on the forest floor.

**Open camps or habitation sites**—Defined minimally by the presence of one or more hearth features.

**Open Access Transmission Tariff (OATT)**—Electronic transmission tariff accepted by the U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission requiring the Transmission Service Provider to furnish to all shippers with non-discriminating service comparable to that provided by Transmission Owners to themselves.

**Opportunity**—A resource or condition that can accommodate a transmission line route, including existing utility or transportation corridors.

**Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)**—OCTA is a non-profit (501 (C) (3) Association) headquartered in Independence, Missouri. Members are dedicated to preservation of overland emigrant trails and educating the public on the emigrant experience through publication of their Overland Journal and News from the Plains newsletter in addition to other public outreach efforts.

**Outage**—Events caused by a disturbance on the electrical system that requires the provider to remove a piece of equipment or a portion or all of a line from service. The disturbances can be either natural or human-caused.

**Overload**—Moving too much current flow over transmission facilities. Equipment has safeguards: in the event of system overload, switches will disconnect sensitive equipment from the flow of electricity.

**Ozone**—Associated with the corona discharge of high-voltage transmission lines. Rapidly recombines back to O<sub>2</sub>.

**PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power)**—Rocky Mountain Power is the trade name under which PacifiCorp delivers electricity to more than 955,000 customers in the Rocky Mountain Power service area, which includes portions of Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho. It transmits electricity via a grid of transmission lines throughout a six-state region. PacifiCorp serves 1.7 million retail customers through its distribution system. Rocky Mountain Power operates under oversight and regulatory controls of the public utility commissions of Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho. PacifiCorp is a public utility under the jurisdiction of the FERC.

**Palustrine**—Northwest Wetland Inventory system that includes wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, and persistent emergent plants associated with water bodies that cover less than 20 acres or with water less than 6.6 feet deep.

**Parturition areas**—Areas where habitat is appropriate for female big game animals to seclude themselves while giving birth to young in late spring or early summer. Such areas are usually characterized by ample hiding cover and forage.

**Perennial stream**—A stream that flows continuously.

**Petitioned species**—A species for which a formal request is made to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to give Endangered Species Act protection as either threatened or endangered. The Service reviews the information contained in the petition and other scientific information in their files to determine if further analysis is needed.

**Physiographic**—Pertaining to the features and phenomena of nature.

**Power**—The rate at which work is done. The basic unit of measure for power is the watt (w).

**Prevention of Significant Deterioration (review)**—Federal pre-construction review for affected sources located in attainment areas for air quality. It is intended to prevent a new source from causing air quality to deteriorate beyond acceptable levels.

**Prime farmland**—A land use classification used by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (7 CFR §657.5) where a favorable growing season, adequate precipitation or irrigation source, and soil characteristics result provide good to excellent crop production.

**Programmatic Agreement**—A document that records the terms and conditions agreed upon to resolve the potential adverse effects of a federal agency program, complex undertaking, or other situations in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.14(b).

**Proponents**—Idaho Power Company and PacifiCorp, collectively.

**Proposed Action**—The Proposed Action for the federal agencies is to consider whether to issue right-of-way grants across various parcels of public lands to allow the construction and operation of portions of new 230-kV and 500-kV electric transmission system that would be located on federally managed lands between the Windstar Substation at Glenrock, Wyoming, and the Hemingway Substation approximately 30 miles southwest of Boise, Idaho.

**Proposed Route**—The route of the proposed Project as sited and proposed by the Proponents and presented to the federal agencies for their consideration in applications for right-of-way grants.

**Protohistory**—Refers to a period between prehistory and history, during which a culture or civilization has not yet developed writing, but other cultures have already noted its existence in their own writings.

**Public Scoping Report**—A report developed by the BLM that documents public outreach efforts and summarizes the comments received during the public scoping period.

**Purpose and Need (NEPA)**—Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the need to take an action may be something the agency identifies itself, or it may be a need to make a decision on a proposal brought to it by someone outside of the agency, for example, an applicant for a permit. Alternatives are measured against how well they meet the underlying need and best achieve the purposes to be attained.

**Purpose and Need (project proponent)**—As identified by an applicant or proponent of a project, the purpose and need describes the intended outcome of the project and the compelling reason why it is being proposed. Alternatives are measured against how well they meet the underlying need and best achieve the purposes to be attained.

**Raptor**—A bird of prey that feeds upon smaller animals.

**Record of Decision (ROD)** —The document that is prepared to substantiate a decision based on an EIS. The ROD is the final step for the BLM and Forest Service in the EIS process. The ROD states the final agency decisions, identifies the alternatives considered and discusses mitigation, enforcement and monitoring commitments.

**Regeneration station**—A station amplifying the signals between substations or regeneration stations when the distance between exceeds 55 miles. Regeneration stations consist of a building 12 by 32 by 9 feet tall, a fenced yard, access road, and distribution power supply from the local distribution system. They are typically built very near the transmission line and have the fiber optic cable entry and exit runs to connect to the overhead ground fiber optic cables along the transmission line.

**Reliability**—Transmission systems must be built with sufficient levels of redundancy to enable the transmission system to reliably operate in the event of the loss of any single element (i.e., transmission line segment or substation element). Following loss of any single element, the transmission operator has 20 minutes to readjust system flows, thereby bringing flows on lines and transformers to within normal ratings, in preparation for the next facility outage.

**Remaining effects**—Those impacts that would remain once all avoidance and minimization are implemented to avoid, minimize, or mitigate for Project-related impacts (determining the extent of remaining impacts is critical in developing the adequacy of proposed mitigation and the need for any additional compensatory mitigation).

**Remote sensing**—“Remote sensing is the science and art of obtaining information about an object, area, or phenomenon through the analysis of data acquired by a device that is not in contact with the object, area, or phenomenon under investigation.”<sup>1</sup> The term is most often applied to aerial or satellite-based imagery recording and interpretation.

**Residual effects**—Those effects remaining after mitigation has been applied to the proposed action or an alternative.

**Revegetate**—Re-establishing vegetation on a disturbed site.

**Revised proposed Route**—The route of the proposed Project as sited and proposed by the Proponents in their revised application for right-of-way grants for segments 8 and 9 submitted in August 2014.

**Right-of-way (ROW)**—Refers to the area, generally centered on a specified centerline, requested by the Proponents of BLM and of other landowners and managers for the construction, operation, and maintenance of a linear feature such as a road, electric transmission line, or pipeline.

**Right-of-way (ROW) grant**—An authorization to use or occupy a specific piece of public land for a certain project, such as a road, pipeline, transmission line, or communication site. A ROW grant authorizes rights and privileges for a specific use of

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<sup>1</sup> Lillesand, Thomas M., and Ralph W. Kiefer. 1987. *Remote Sensing and Image Interpretation*. John Wiley & Sons. New York.

the land for a specific period of time. For a transmission line, this includes the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of the Project. Generally, a ROW is granted for no longer than 30 years.

**Riparian areas**—Vegetation communities that occur adjacent to waterways such as streams, rivers, springs, ponds, lakes, or tidewater and that provide habitat for numerous plant and animal species. They generally occupy transitional areas between aquatic and upland habitats and may function as vegetative buffers for aquatic resources.

**Riprap**—Broken stones put in areas to prevent erosion, especially along river and stream banks.

**Riverine system**—Wetland inventory system that includes wetlands not dominated by trees, shrubs, or persistent emergents that are contained within a river channel.

**Roadless area**—An area of undeveloped public land typically exceeding 5,000 acres within which there are no improved roads maintained for travel by means of motorized vehicles intended for highway use.

**Sage-grouse lek**—A location used by male sage-grouse, generally every year, to assemble during the mating season and engage in competitive displays that attract females.

**Scenery Management System**—The Scenery Management System (SMS) replaces the Visual Management System (VMS) used in the most recent Medicine Bow National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. The SMS provides an overall framework for the orderly inventory, analysis, and management of scenery. The new system applies to all national forests and grasslands administered by the Forest Service and to all Forest Service management activities. The SMS process uses particular ecosystems as the environmental context for aesthetics.

**Scoping**—Part of the federal environmental analysis process required under NEPA where significant issues are identified for detailed analysis. Scoping includes, but is not limited to, a formal scoping period early in the analysis process in which members of the public are invited to review the proposed project and identify possible issues or concerns with the project.

**Section 106**—Section 106 of the NHPA is a clause stating that heads of federal agencies must consider potential effects to any sites eligible for listing on the NRHP prior to the approval of licenses or the issuance of federal funds for undertakings on lands over which they hold jurisdiction.

**Sedimentation**—The deposition or accumulation of sediment.

**Sensitive species**—Those plants and animals identified by the Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trend in populations or density and significant or predicted downward trend in habitat capability.

**Seral**—Pertaining to the stages of ecological succession occurring in communities of plants and animals until the climax is reached.

**Severe winter relief range**—A documented survival range which may or may not be considered a crucial range area as defined above. It is used to a great extent, only in occasionally extremely severe winters (e.g., 2 years out of 10). It may lack habitat characteristics which would make it attractive or capable of supporting major portions of the population during normal years but is used by and allows at least a significant portion of the population to survive the occasional extremely severe winter. [Wyoming Chap. of Wildlife Society 1990]

**Shrub wetlands**—Wetlands dominated by woody perennial vegetation smaller than trees.

**Shrubland**—A habitat type characterized by woody vegetation smaller than trees (in general, having multiple main stems and being less than 20 feet in height and six inches diameter at breast height at maturity). In the Analysis Area, common shrubland plant species are big sage, mountain sagebrush, rabbitbrush, antelope bitterbrush, greasewood, and fourwing saltbush.

**Single-circuit transmission line**—A transmission line composed of three electrical phases and two lightning protection shield wires. One of the lightning protection shield wires is a steel OHGW, and the other is typically an OPGW.

**Single-contingency**—An analysis for reliability that takes into account a single event that could affect the grid. (See also **Double-Contingency**)

**Siting study area**—Initially defined as being 10 miles on either side of the centerlines of the Proposed Route and Route Alternatives considered in the initial siting process. The siting study area was designed to be large enough to include ancillary facilities, including roads, substations, structures, and areas needed for construction. As mapped, the siting study area includes 28 million acres. See also **Analysis Area**.

**Soil erosion**—The movement of soil particles, usually as a result of wind or water forces. Many factors affect soil erosion, including soil grain size, cohesion factor, soil moisture content, type and amount of vegetative cover, precipitation amount and intensity, steepness of slope, and wind speed.

**Source Station**—A power station that is the receiving point for energy from distant generation delivered over high voltage power lines.

**Snag**—A dead or dying tree.

**Span length of a transmission circuit**—the distance between two transmission support structures traveled by the conductors, measured either horizontally or along the conductors from the end of one insulator string to the end of the next insulator string.

**Special Use Permit**—A legal document that allows occupancy, use, rights, or privileges of National Forest System (NFS) land. The authorization is granted for a specific use of the land for a specific period of time.

**Special Status Species**—Species of plants or animals that have been designated by government agencies as needing special monitoring, conservation, or protection, usually due to declining populations. This group includes federally endangered and threatened species as well as other designations.

**Species**—A group of interbreeding individuals not interbreeding with another such group; similar, and related species are grouped into a genus.

**Staging Area**—A fenced, generally flat location where materials, equipment, and vehicles are stored prior to their use in construction of the transmission line or its ancillary facilities. Also known as a **laydown yard**, **marshaling yard**, or **multipurpose yard**.

**Structures**—Refers to a type of support used to hold up transmission or substation equipment.

**State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)**—Created under Section 101 of the NHPA to survey and recognize historic properties, review nominations for properties to be included in the National Register of Historic Places, review undertakings for the impact on the properties as well as support federal organizations, state and local governments, and the private sector. States are responsible for setting up their own SHPO; therefore, each SHPO varies slightly on rules and regulations.

**Stray voltage**—Stray voltage is an extraneous voltage that appears on grounded surfaces in buildings, barns, and other structures, including utility distribution systems.

**Stream Channel (Idaho)**—By statute definition in Idaho, a natural water course of perceptible extent that has definite beds and banks, and which confines and conducts continuously flowing water. Only present channels are regulated under the stream alteration permit. Historic channels that no longer conduct continuously flowing water are excluded from permit requirements. Continuously flowing water is defined as an amount of water capable of providing for the migration and movement of fish, but excludes those portions of streams that naturally go dry at the location of the alteration.

**Stream channel alteration**—Any activity that will obstruct, diminish, destroy, alter, modify, relocate, or change the natural existing shape or direction of water flow of any stream channel.

**Substation**—A fenced site containing switching and transformation equipment needed to transform one voltage to another and for protecting and controlling transmission and distribution lines. A substation is used to raise voltages for long distance transmission and to lower transmission voltages for distribution to the end users.

**Sub-transmission Lines (69 kV; 138 kV; 161 kV)**—Lines used for transmitting electrical energy between substations that are close to one another (up to approximately 100 miles). These lines will typically not carry as much energy as the extra-high voltage lines.

**Summer or Spring-Summer-Fall range**—A population or portion of a population of animals use the documented habitats within this range annually only (from the previous winter) to the onset of persistent winter conditions (variable, but commonly this period is between 5/1 and 11/30 or shorter in Wyoming). (5/1 – 11/14, adopted by WGFD in 2004) [Wyoming Chapter of Wildlife Society 1990]

**Switches**—Devices used to mechanically disconnect or isolate equipment; found on both sides of circuit breakers.

**System reliability**—The ability of a power system to provide uninterrupted service, even while that system is under stress.

**Take**—Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting, or attempting to engage in any such conduct toward a species listed under the ESA.

**Talus**—Rock debris that has accumulated at the base of a cliff or steep slope.

**Tap**—The point at which a transmission line is connected to a substation or other electrical device to provide service to a local load.

**Temporary Use Permit**—A permit given for temporary use of federally managed lands. A temporary use permit is typically issued for the construction of a project, followed by a special use permit or long-term right-of-way grant for the operation of the project.

**Terrestrial**—Occurring on land.

**TES species**—threatened and endangered species listed or candidates for listing under the federal ESA and those species listed by the BLM and the Forest Service as sensitive.

**Threatened species**—Those species officially listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range. [ESA §3(20)]

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**—A quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources, and load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water.

**Topsoil**—The uppermost soil layer, generally ranging from a few inches to less than one foot in thickness. Topsoil is the site of greatest organic content, contains the most soil nutrients, and supports the greatest amount of plant life.

**Track road**—Unimproved dirt roads without surfacing or regular maintenance, generally 8 to 12 feet in width.

**Traditional Cultural Property (TCP)**—A property that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community.

**Transformers**—Electrical equipment usually contained in a substation that is needed to change voltage on a transmission system.

**Transmission line**—A system of structures, wires, insulators, and associated hardware that carry electric energy from one point to another in an electric power system. Lines are operated at relatively high voltages varying from 69 kV up to 765 kV, and are capable of transmitting large quantities of electricity over long distances.

**Trona**—A monoclinic mineral, grayish or yellowish hydrous sodium carbonate and bicarbonate,  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot \text{NaHCO}_3 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ , occurring in dried or partly evaporated lake basins.

**Turbidity**—The state or condition of opaqueness or reduced clarity of a fluid, due to the presence of suspended matter.

**Undertaking**—Defined at 36 CFR 800.16(y) as “a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency.”

**Viewshed**—As defined in the BLM Visual Resource Management Manual, refers to “the landscape that can be directly seen under favorable atmospheric conditions, from a viewpoint or along a transportation corridor.”

**Visual Contrast Rating (VCR)**—A systematic process used by the BLM to analyze potential visual impact of proposed projects and activities.

**Visual Impact Assessment Point (VAP)**—Specific locations where transmission facilities constructed along the alternative corridors would be visible.

**Visual resource inventory (VRI)**—A systematic process for determining the visual values on public lands. The inventory process has three parts: scenic quality evaluation, sensitivity level analysis, and delineation of distance zones. Based on the combinations of the three, BLM-managed lands can then be categorized as Class I (most valued and highest quality of scenery) to Class IV (areas of low scenic quality and sensitivity at most or all distance zones). These inventory classes represent the existing visual resources.

**Visual Resource Management (VRM) system (BLM)**—The BLM system identifies four VRM Classes (I through IV) with specific management prescriptions for each class. The system is based on an inventory of the existing scenic quality, viewer sensitivity, and viewing distance zones. The management class for a given area is typically arrived at by comparing the scenic quality, visual sensitivity, and distance zone with the overall goals set forth for the area.

**Volt**—The international system unit of electric potential and electromotive force—a measure of electrical “pressure”.

**Voltage**—The electrical potential difference between two points expressed in volts; the driving force that causes a current to flow in an electrical circuit.

**Waters of the United States**—Broadly defined by statute, regulation, and judicial interpretation to include all waters that were, are, or could be used in interstate commerce such as rivers, streams (including ephemeral streams), reservoirs, lakes, and adjacent wetlands. The USACE Wetlands Delineation Manual dated January 1987 (USACE 1987) and its current supplements must be used to determine if an area has sufficient wetland characteristics to be a water of the United States.

**Watershed**—The area that drains to a common waterway.

**Weathering steel**—A group of steel alloys developed to eliminate the need for painting (proposed for all H-frame structures).

**West-wide Energy (WWE) Corridor**—The designation of energy corridors, based on Section 368 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, on federal lands in 11 western states, including Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**West-wide Energy Corridor Programmatic EIS**—Considers 11 contiguous western states for the possible construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning and



dismantling of energy infrastructure such as oil and gas pipelines and electric transmission lines. The states considered are Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming ([www.corridoreis.anl.gov](http://www.corridoreis.anl.gov)).

**Wetlands**—Defined for regulatory purposes as “Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water (hydrology) at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation (hydrophytes) typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions (hydric soils). Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas (33 CFR 328.3 and 40 CFR 232.2(r)).”

**Winter range**—Areas that are used by animals, primarily big game, during winter months when forage is scarce and snow is often deep.

**Winter/yearlong range**—A population or a portion of a population of animals makes general use of the documented suitable habitat within this range on a year-round basis. But during the winter months (commonly between 12/1 and 4/30), there is a significant influx of additional animals into the area from other seasonal ranges. (11/15 – 4/30, adopted by WGFD in 2004).

**Wire zone**—A linear zone under the transmission wires, and extending 10 feet beyond them, maintained in vegetation cover less than 5 feet high.

**Yearlong range**—A population or portion of a population of animals makes general use of the suitable documented habitat within the range on a year round basis. Exception occasionally, under severe conditions (extremely severe winters, drought) animals may leave the area.

**Zoning**—Regulations used to guide growth and development; typically involve legally adopted restrictions on uses and building sites in specific geographic areas to regulate private land use.

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