

Chapter 5

GLOSSARY

100-year floodplain

An area whose flood level has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. See also *floodplain*.

acre-foot

A unit of volume commonly used to measure stored or used water. An acre-foot is equivalent to the quantity of water needed to cover 1 acre of land to a depth of 1 foot (1 acre-foot is equivalent to 325,851 gallons, 43,560 cubic feet, or 1, 233 cubic meters).

A.D.

Anno Domini. Dating system devised in 525 to enumerate the years used with the Julian and Gregorian calendars, which are based on the traditionally reckoned year of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

adit

An entrance to an underground mine which is horizontal or nearly horizontal, by which the mine can be entered, drained of water, and ventilated.

affected environment

(1) A geographic area and the associated natural, human, and cultural resources that could be influenced by a proposed action. (2) The chapter in an environmental impact statement (EIS) that describes the existing condition of the environment.

allotment

An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments consist of land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or U.S. Forest Service and usually include other federally managed, state-administered, and private land. An allotment may include one or more pastures. Livestock numbers and periods of use are specified for each allotment or pasture.

American Indian tribe (or Native American tribe)

Indian tribes as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 54 U.S.C. 300101 (as recodified): Indian tribe means 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 (54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq. [as recodified]).

ampere

A unit of electric current that measures the rate at which electrons flow in a wire (1 ampere is 6.023×10^{23} electrons per second). An ampere is equivalent to the steady current produced by 1 volt applied across a resistance of 1 ohm.

anadromous

Refers to fish species that hatch in fresh water, migrate to salt water where they grow and spend their adult life, and return to fresh water to spawn and die.

animal unit month (AUM)

A standardized unit of measurement of the amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal unit for 1 month; also, a unit of measurement that represents the privilege of grazing one animal unit for 1 month. An animal unit is a standardized unit of measurement for range livestock or wildlife. Generally, one mature cow (1,000 pounds) or its equivalent, based on an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

annualized job

A method for estimating direct full-time employment. An employment estimate adjusted to a full year, even though the job may consist of more than one worker employed for shorter time periods.

archaeology

The science that investigates the history of peoples by studying the material remains of past societies.

area of critical environmental concern (ACEC)

A BLM designation for an area within public lands where special management attention is required to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes; or to protect life from natural hazards.

artifact

Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a pre-contact or historic culture.

assemblage

A collection of species making up any co-occurring community of organisms in a given habitat.

assessment (environment)

An evaluation of existing resources and potential impacts to those resources from a proposed act or change to the environment.

attainment area

An area whose air quality meets or exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined by the Clean Air Act, for one or more criteria pollutants. Attainment status is assessed separately for each criteria pollutant—that is, an area can be in attainment for one pollutant but not in attainment for another pollutant.

avoidance area

An area designated in a land use plan, for which use for a right-of-way should be avoided if at all possible.

avoidance mitigation

Avoidance of an impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action (may also include, for example, avoidance by moving the proposed action to a different time or location) (40 CFR 1508.20).

A-weighted decibel

A measurement of sound pressure level (decibels) weighted or adjusted to reflect the sensitivity of the human ear across the frequency spectrum. The A-weighted decibel scale is the standard weighting system that accounts for human hearing response to each sound frequency.

B.P.

Before the present. As used in radiocarbon and other archaeological dating, the present is defined as A.D. 1950.

bay

A closed or open cubicle or area where electrical equipment is placed.

bedrock

Solid rock lying below any unconsolidated surface cover such as soil and loose sediments.

board foot

A unit of quantity commonly used to measure lumber. A board foot is equal to the volume of a board measuring 12 inches by 12 inches by 1 inch.

burial

Unmarked human interment or grave.

bus (or busbar)

An electrical conductor, maintained at a specific voltage and capable of carrying a high current, that is used to connect several circuits in an electrical power distribution system.

bus-support insulator

Porcelain or fiberglass insulator that serves to isolate busbar switches and other support structures and to prevent leakage current from flowing through structures or to the ground. This insulator type is functionally similar to other insulator types used in substations and transmission poles and towers.

cairn

A stack or mound of rocks used to mark the locations of boundaries or mining claims.

campsite

A site occupied by a limited number of individuals either seasonally or for short periods of time. Such a site is frequently characterized by the presence of limited activity areas, artifact scatters (e.g., lithic debitage, lithic tools, ground stone, and ceramics), thermal features, or scatters of fire-cracked rock.

candidate species

Plant or animal species considered for possible addition to the threatened and endangered species list. These are species for which the U.S. 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).

capability class

The broadest group in the land capability classification system that interprets suitability and limitations of soils for growing commonly cultivated crops.

capacity

Amount of power a transmission line can reliably deliver from its sending end to its receiving end. Capacity is measured in megawatts and is limited by the current (in amperes) that the wire can carry and the voltage level of the transmission line.

carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e)

A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases based upon their global warming potential.

carbon sequestration

Terrestrial, or biologic, carbon sequestration is the process by which trees and plants absorb carbon dioxide, release the oxygen, and store the carbon. Geologic sequestration is one step in the process of carbon capture and sequestration, and involves injecting carbon dioxide deep underground where it stays permanently.

census block

The smallest subdivision of a census tract that typically contains between 600 and 3,000 people.

census block group

A geographic subdivision of a census tract that comprises a compact and contiguous cluster of census blocks.

census tract

A relatively permanent geographic subdivision of a county smaller than a census county division that is used for recording population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. Tracts do not cross county boundaries.

center-pivot irrigation

An irrigation method used to water circular agricultural fields. This method relies on an automated sprinkler system consisting of a long segmented pipe mounted on a tower that rotates around a central point. Sprinkler arms typically range from 200 to over 2,000 feet long.

centerline

A line along the approximate middle of the project right-of-way.

check dam

A small low dam temporarily or permanently constructed in a waterway or drainage ditch to decrease the speed of flowing water, to minimize channel erosion, to allow sediments to settle, and to divert water from a channel.

Clean Water Act (CWA)

The Clean Water Act establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants and fill material into the waters of the United States and regulating water quality standards for surface waters. The CWA made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters, unless a permit was obtained.

colluvium

Accumulation of sand and rock debris at the foot of cliffs or steep slopes.

community of shared interest

Geographically dispersed individuals who could experience common conditions related to an environmental effect.

compensatory mitigation

Compensation for an impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments (40 CFR 1508.20). Actions taken to offset an unavoidable adverse impact on wetlands, streams, and other aquatic resources authorized by Clean Water Act Section 404 permits and other U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permits in order to help meet the national goal of “no net loss” of wetland acreage and function. Compensatory mitigation takes one of three forms: (1) permittee-responsible mitigation, (2) mitigation bank, or (3) in-lieu-fee mitigation (see those respective terms for their full definitions). Implementing and monitoring compensatory mitigation also involve the following key concepts:

ecological durability: Benefits from compensatory mitigation projects on compensatory mitigation sites persisting and influencing the landscape for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect Greater Sage-Grouse.

projects: Specific, on-the-ground actions (mitigation measures) to improve habitats (e.g., chemical vegetation treatments).

protective durability: Protection of compensatory mitigation sites from future and conflicting land uses or disturbances for as long as or longer than the projected impacts will negatively affect Greater Sage-Grouse.

reversals: Damage to functioning compensatory mitigation sites that may be caused by natural disturbances (unintentional reversal, such as wildfire) or anthropogenic disturbances (intentional reversal, such as development) which shorten the intended duration of compensatory mitigation.

sites: The durable areas where compensatory mitigation projects will occur.

confined animal feeding operation (CAFO)

The concentrated confined feeding or holding of animals or poultry, including but not limited to horse, cattle, sheep, or swine feeding areas, dairy confinement areas, slaughterhouse or shipping terminal holding pens, poultry and egg production facilities and fur farms; also, an animal feeding operation that is subject to regulation as a concentrated animal feeding operation pursuant to 40 CFR § 122.23.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a land conservation program administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA). In exchange for a yearly rental payment, farmers enrolled in the program agree to remove environmentally sensitive land from agricultural production and plant species that will improve environmental health and quality.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program is an offshoot of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA), CREP targets high-priority conservation issues identified by local, state, or tribal governments or non-governmental organizations. In exchange for removing environmentally sensitive land from production and introducing conservation practices, farmers, ranchers, and agricultural land owners are paid an annual rental rate.

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).

corona

An electrical discharge (breakdown) produced by the concentration of electrical fields near the surface of various components (conductors, insulators, hardware, and so forth) of an energized high-voltage transmission line. This breakdown releases ions (charged particles) into the air, which can produce such effects as an audible buzzing sound, visible light, gaseous emissions, and radio/television interference.

Cowardin classification

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's comprehensive classification system of wetlands and deepwater habitats, which was developed by Lewis Cowardin, Virginia Carter, Francis Golet, and Edward LaRoe and published in 1979 as *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States*. Under this system, wetlands are of two basic types: coastal (also known as tidal or estuarine wetlands) and inland (also known as nontidal, freshwater, or palustrine wetlands).

criteria pollutant

One of the six common air pollutants (particulate matter, ground-level ozone, carbon monoxide, lead, sulfur oxides, and nitrogen oxides) designated in the Clean Air Act that are regulated by national standard permissible levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency. "Criteria" refers to the human-

health-based and environmental-science-based guidelines that the EPA uses to determine permissible levels. Levels based on human-health guidelines are called “primary standards.” Levels based on environmental-science guidelines are called “secondary standards.”

critical groundwater area

In Oregon, a designation by the Water Resources Commission on an area of the state that, among other reasons, has experienced excessive groundwater level declines, the available groundwater supply is near or is being overdrawn, the groundwater may be polluted, or the groundwater temperatures are substantially changed.

culvert

A natural or artificial conduit under a road, trail, or other feature that diverts stream water or precipitation runoff to prevent erosion or flooding or that is used as an underground or aboveground passageway for wildlife. Artificial culverts are typically constructed of corrugated metal pipes or concrete boxes. The overhead surface of culverts is often stabilized for use as a waterbody crossing for vehicles.

Cultural landscape

Geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

cultural resource

Any resource associated with the human cultural environment; examples include pre-contact and historic artifacts, archaeological sites, historic sites, ethnographic sites; historic properties, historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian Tribes, and traditional cultural properties.

cumulative effect or impact

The effect on the environment that results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor, but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1508.7).

day–night sound level (L_{dn})

The average sound level over a 24-hour period calculated from hourly equivalent sound level (L_{eq}) values measured at a given location, with the nighttime L_{eq} values (10:00 p.m.–7:00 a.m.) increased by 10 decibels to reflect increased sensitivity to nighttime sound.

dead-end structure

Self-supporting structure/tower used in the construction of overhead transmission lines as line end points or to anchor line spans and turns.

decibel

A unit of sound level used to measure the intensity (pressure) of a sound wave.

designated utility (or right-of-way) corridor

A parcel of land with specific boundaries identified by law, Secretarial Order, the land-use planning process, or other management decision as being a preferred location of existing and future rights-of-way. The corridor may be suitable to accommodate more than one type of right-of-way or one or more rights-of-way that are similar, identical, or compatible.

direct effect

Effects caused by the action (i.e., construction) that occur at the same time and place (40 CFR 1508.8(a)).

direct labor income

Employment compensation for work directly performed to produce specific goods or services.

dispersed recreation

A recreational activity that occurs on public lands but that is not located at developed sites or locations. Examples include off-highway-vehicle use, camping, hunting, fishing, touring historic trails, sightseeing, pleasure driving, rock hounding, photography, picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, snowmobiling, rafting, power boating, and general water play.

district

A district possesses a significant concentration or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

disturbance

A temporary change in environmental conditions that causes a pronounced change in an ecosystem.

drainage basin

A portion of land that contains a system of streams, rivers, lakes, or reservoirs and that contributes water to this system through surface water runoff. Also referred to as a "watershed."

drip irrigation

Method of irrigation in which water is sent through pipes that are laid among the crops or buried along rootlines with emitters in the pipes at individual plants.

dryland farming

A nonirrigated method of crop management and production, especially adapted for farming in arid regions.

dump

A formal or informal concentration of historic trash; related to subsistence practices and containing single or multiple episodes of deposition.

effect

Impact on the human environment brought about by an agent of change or action. Effects analysis predicts the degree to which the environment will be affected by an action. The CEQ uses the terms

effect and impact synonymously in the NEPA regulations. Other synonyms include consequence, result, and outcome. Effects can be beneficial or detrimental, and may be direct, indirect, or cumulative.

electromagnetic fields (EMF)

The movement of electric and magnetic waves, also known as radiant energy, generated within an invisible area surrounding an active electrical device, wire, or power line. The voltage (pressure) that moves electric charges through the device, wire, or power line creates the electric field, while the current (flow) of those electric charges produces the magnetic field.

encroachment permit

Written permission obtained from a private landowner that allows the permit holder to access the landowner's property for temporary activities, such as surveying.

endangered species

A plant or animal species that is listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as being endangered with extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range. This designation provides individuals and their habitats with the highest legal status for protection.

environmental justice

A practice to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of a federal agency's programs, policies, and activities on minority or low-income populations and to ensure that such programs, policies, and activities do not exclude participation or subject people to discrimination based on race, color, or national origin.

environmental protection measure

Actions or measures developed to maintain environmental quality and meet requirements of various land owners and land management plans.

ephemeral stream

Stream that only flows in direct response to precipitation.

equivalent sound level (Leq)

The steady, continuous sound level measured over a specified time that has the same acoustic energy as the varying sound levels over that same time.

Ethnography

The study and systematic recording of human cultures. Also the descriptive body of work produced from such research.

exclusive farm use

Oregon law establishes the following statewide policy for use of agricultural land (ORS 215.243):

- Open land used for agriculture is a vital natural and economic asset for all the people of the state,

- Preservation of a maximum amount of agricultural land, in large blocks, is necessary to maintain the agricultural economy of the state and for the assurance of adequate, healthful and nutritious food,
- Expansion of urban development in rural areas is a public concern because of the conflicts between farm and urban activities, and
- Incentives and privileges are justified to owners of land in exclusive farm use zones because such zoning substantially limits alternatives to the use of rural lands.

extensive recreation management area (ERMA)

A Bureau of Land Management administrative unit whose recreation opportunities or setting characteristics have little unique, important, or distinct value and that therefore require only limited management actions, not intensive management actions, to meet recreation objectives regarding use, demand, access, signage, etc.

farmland of statewide importance

Land that does not meet the criteria for prime or unique farmland, but is determined by state agencies to be important for the production of food, feed fiber, forage, and oilseed crops. Generally, this land includes areas of soils that nearly meet the requirements for prime farmland and that economically produce high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Some areas may produce as high a yield as prime farmland if conditions are favorable.

feature

A complex artifact or part of a site such as a thermal feature, soil stain, depression, rock alignment, or activity area.

fire-cracked rock

Rock which has been discolored, cracked, or altered by exposure to fire.

flood irrigation

Method of irrigation in which water is pumped or brought to fields and is allowed to flow along the ground among the crops.

floodplain

A relatively flat, normally dry strip of sediment-built land bordering a stream channel or waterbody that becomes inundated during flood events when water overflows the banks of the stream or waterbody.

fly yard

A staging area for project materials used specifically to support helicopter use.

fossil

Remain, imprint, or trace of a plant or animal organism from a past geologic time period that has become embedded and preserved in the rock record.

fugitive-dust emission

The release of a visible air contaminant from any point or source other than a stack, vent, duct, or other similar opening. Examples include dust from roads; from construction, operation, or demolition activities, and from material stockpiles.

gauss

A unit of magnetic flux intensity used to measure the strength of the magnetic field per unit area.

general wildlife

Wildlife species not listed as having special status with any federal or state wildlife agencies.

geographic information system (GIS)

A computer-based database management system used to store, retrieve, manipulate, analyze, and display three-dimensional geographically referenced information. Each dataset within the system is referred to as a "layer." GIS layers can be superimposed to display spatial relationships between datasets.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

A navigational system based on satellite signals transmitted to receivers to determine the precise location coordinates of an object anywhere on the earth's surface.

greenhouse-gas emission

A gas such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide released into the atmosphere from fuel-combustion sources that absorbs solar heat radiated back from the earth's surface and traps it in the atmosphere, creating a warming effect.

groundwater

Any water that exists below the earth's surface; specifically, water stored in fully saturated soils and geologic formations that supplies springs, wells, and groundwater runoff.

habitat fragmentation

Landscape-level process that alters the continuity of a species' preferred environment (habitat) by dividing it into smaller, disconnected patches of habitat, which, in turn, threatens the survival of that species' population.

habitation

A site inhabited or used intensively over an extended period of time, either year-round or on a seasonal basis. Habitations are frequently characterized by multiple activity areas, extensive and diverse scatters of lithic debitage and specialized tools, ceramics, architectural remains, storage structures, thermal features, and well-developed middens.

hardened ford

A shallow area of a stream bank and channel that is excavated and replaced with compacted rock and gravel and used as a waterbody crossing for vehicles, people, and animals.

heliport

A place for helicopters to land and take off.

hertz

The unit of sound frequency used to measure the cycles per second of sound pressure waves.

high-value farmland

For purposes of ORS 215.705, this is land composed of soils that are predominantly irrigated and classified prime, unique, Class I or Class II; or not irrigated and classified prime unique, Class I or Class II. In addition, if outside the Willamette Valley, it includes tracts growing specific perennial crops. Additional soil types are included in the Willamette Valley or west of the summit of the Coast Range.

historic property

Any district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (maintained by the Secretary of the Interior [36 CFR 800]).

Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP)

Identifies treatments for historic properties that will be adversely affected by construction of a project, and suggests avoidance and mitigation measures to preserve the integrity of these cultural resources, or salvage any information that will be lost by construction of a project.

housepits

Semi-subterranean features, with or without a prepared floor, roughly round or oval in planview and roughly basin-shaped in profile.

impact

See effect.

impact analysis for planning (IMPLAN) model

A model used to analyze the total economic activity of a given area by tracking the linkages and flow of spending and employment between various economic sectors.

Important farmland

Lands identified with soils that are prime, unique, or statewide or locally important farmland

index fossil

Significant vertebrate or invertebrate fossil of widespread distribution that provides age-dating information or that is representative of specific geological formations.

Indirect effect

Caused by the action later in time or farther removed in distance, but still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects and other effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth-rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems (40 CFR 1508.8(b)).

indirect labor income

Employment compensation for work that supports the overall production of specific goods or services but that is not directly involved in such production.

individual permit

Permits required for projects that affect more than 0.50 acre of waters of the United States or that cause impacts to jurisdictional wetlands. An individual permit requires mitigation to minimize or offset the impacts to Waters of the United States with no net loss of functions and values of the water resource.

injection well

A vertical shaft or hole that is bored, drilled, driven, or dug into the ground surface to create a subsurface distribution system for water or other fluids.

in-kind mitigation

Compensation that consists of replacing or substituting resources that are the same type and kind as those being impacted.

in-lieu-fee mitigation

Payment of funds to the Bureau of Land Management or a natural resource management agency, foundation, or other appropriate organization for mitigation projects or activities that address project impacts.

intermittent stream

Stream that only flows part of the year (seasonally) when it receives water from springs or rainfall runoff or surface water from snowmelt runoff from mountainous areas.

issue

An issue is a point or matter of discussion, debate, or dispute about the potential environmental effects of an action. Issues point to environmental effects and may influence the development of alternatives to the proposed action.

IUCN category

International Union for Conservation of Nature's protected area categories for the management of protected areas.

jurisdictional determination

The process for determining which wetlands are regulated under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act.

jurisdictional wetlands

Wetlands regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under Section 404 and must exhibit all three characteristics: hydrology, hydrophytes, and hydric soils (1987).

jurisdictions

The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

karst

A region consisting of features that are characterized by subsurface chemical weathering or erosion. Such features include sinkholes, caves, and subsurface drainage.

key observation point

A viewing location on a travel route, or at a use area or a potential use area, that is representative of a visually sensitive area where potential changes in the landscape setting (line, form, color, or texture) would be most visible.

K factor

Measurement of a soil's erosion potential and rate of runoff.

kilovolt (kV)

1,000 volts.

labor income

The sum of employee compensation (employee wages, salaries, and benefits and employer-paid payroll taxes) and proprietor income (self-employment earnings). Labor income can be further categorized as direct, indirect, and induced. See also *direct labor income*, *indirect labor income*, *induced labor income*.

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

Those lands that have been inventoried and determined by the BLM to contain wilderness characteristics as defined in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. 1131, et seq. These attributes include the area's size, its apparent naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP)

A USFS land-use management plan that provides a framework for on-the-ground decision making, for integrated resource management, and for guiding project and activity decision making on a national forest, grassland, prairie, or other administrative unit.

land-use plan

A set of decisions that establish the direction for management of land within an administrative area, (pertaining to federal land, as prescribed under the planning provisions of FLPMA).

lattice tower

A freestanding steel framework tower used to support 100-kV and higher electric transmission lines.

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 the National Environmental Policy Act.

linear sites

Any roadway, from freeway to footpath; utility lines, telephone, telegraph lines, fencelines, and power lines; railroads; and waterways.

lek

A competitive strutting and mating gathering area for male sage-grouse.

lithics

A general term used to refer to chipped stone artifacts or debitage.

lithic landscape

Co-occurrence, in a given geographic space, of different structural units each one composed by a raw material source and unmodified and human-modified pieces of rock extracted from that source and then transported, used, and discarded across the landscape.

lithic procurement area

An area from which raw materials were obtained and removed for lithic tool manufacture and refurbishing.

maintenance area

Geographic areas that have a history of nonattainment but that are now consistently meeting the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Maintenance areas have been redesignated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from “nonattainment” to “attainment with a maintenance plan.”

megawatt (MW)

1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts.

Military Operations Area (MOA)

A MOA is airspace designated outside of Class A airspace (the airspace from flight level [FL] 180 or 18,000 ft. [5,486 m] to FL 600 or 60,000 ft. [18,288 m]), to separate or segregate certain nonhazardous military activities from Instrument Flight Rules traffic and to identify for Visual Flight Rules traffic where these activities are conducted. MOAs are designated to contain nonhazardous, military flight activities including, but not limited to, air combat maneuvers, air intercepts, low altitude tactics, etc. Aircraft utilizing the MOA are not engaged in any firing or bombing activities.

Military Training Route (MTR)

Military Training Routes (MTRs) are designated air corridors, mutually developed by the FAA and the Department of Defense, for low-altitude, high-speed military flight traffic and training.

migratory bird

Bird species that undertake regular seasonal journeys between ranges for breeding.

minimization mitigation

Minimization of an impact by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation (40 CFR 1508.20).

mitigation

See avoidance mitigation, compensatory mitigation, minimization mitigation, rectification mitigation, and reduction or elimination mitigation.

mitigation bank

A type of compensatory mitigation for offsetting authorized unavoidable impacts on aquatic resources that is regulated through a permitting process and involves the establishment of wetland and aquatic habitat by a bank sponsor before development actions occur; developers can then purchase “credits” from the bank sponsor to provide compensatory mitigation at a proposed project site.

memorandum of understanding

A formal document detailing a signed agreement between two or more parties.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)

National standards set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, as stipulated by the Clean Air Act (40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 50), to regulate pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act established two types of national standards. Primary standards set limits to protect public health, including the health of “sensitive” populations such as asthmatics, children, and the elderly. Secondary standards set limits to protect public welfare, including protection against decreased visibility, damage to animals, crops, vegetation, and buildings. EPA has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants (see also criteria pollutants).

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)

Public Law 91-190. An Act that encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between man and his environment, promotes efforts to prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, stimulates the health and welfare of man, enriches the understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to the nation, and establishes the CEQ.

native loads

Retail customers.

National Historic Trail (NHT)

A continuous trail commemorating historic routes of exploration, migration, trade, communication, or military action designed by Congress which (1) follows as closely as possible to the actual route of historic use, (2) is of national significance, and (3) has significant potential for public recreation and/or interpretation opportunities.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit

A permit regulating the discharge, monitoring, and reporting requirements of point sources discharging pollutants into a “water of the United States”. It contains specific operation provisions to ensure that the point sources discharging do not hurt water quality or people’s health.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)

A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects maintained by the NPS, each determined by NPS to be of historic, cultural, architectural, archaeological, or engineering significance at the local, state, or national level, established by the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Native American

A member of any of the aboriginal peoples of the western hemisphere, especially native peoples of the United States and its territories, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, Chamorros, and American Samoans.

nonattainment area

An area whose air quality does not meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined in the Clean Air Act, for one or more criteria pollutants. Attainment status is assessed separately for each criteria pollutant—that is, an area can be not in attainment for one pollutant but in attainment for another pollutant.

“no net loss” policy

The policy to replace each newly impact wetland with a replacement wetland of the same size and with similar wetland functions and values.

nonpoint source

A source for water-transported substances that originates from a broad area rather than specific locations.

nonspecular conductor

A conductor that has been either mechanically or chemically treated to produce reduced reflectivity. The treated surface will have a smooth matte gray finish that blends naturally and unobtrusively with the environment.

Notice of Intent

A public notification, published in the *Federal Register*, indicating that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered in the decision making for a proposed action. The Notice of Intent provides project background information and marks the initiation of the public NEPA scoping process.

Notice to Proceed

A notification sent to a project contractor indicating that project work, subject to the conditions of the contract, can officially begin. The Notice to Proceed date typically serves as the project start date.

noxious weed

A legal term defined by states, counties, and the federal government. It is the basis for developing the noxious weed lists which are part of this document.

ohm

Physical unit used to measure electrical resistance. An ohm is equal to the resistance of a circuit in which a potential difference of 1 volt produces a current of 1 ampere.

out-of-kind mitigation

Compensation consisting of replacing or substituting resources that, while related, are of equal or greater overall value to public lands than the resources being impacted.

off-highway vehicle (OHV)

A motorized vehicle that can be operated on unpaved roads or trails or in remote areas, especially for recreational purposes. These vehicles are not typically legal to use on paved public highways, streets, or roads. Examples include all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel-drive vehicles, dirt bikes, dune buggies, and snowmobiles.

particulate matter

Solid or liquid particles suspended in the air that may be composed of acids, organic chemicals, metals, or soil and dust particles. Particulate matter is further defined by particle size. Particles with diameters less than 2.5 microns are denoted as PM_{2.5}; sources of these particles are fuel combustion, power plants, and diesel vehicles. Particles with diameters of 2.5 to 10 microns are denoted as PM₁₀; sources include fugitive dust from unstable or disturbed dirt surfaces, vehicle travel on unpaved roads, crushing and grinding operations, and open burning.

paulstrine

National Wetland Inventory classification system that includes wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, and persistent emergent plants associated with waterbodies that cover less than 20 acres or with water less than 6.6 feet deep.

palustrine emergent

A wetland type that lacks significant shrub or tree cover, occurs in a variety of locales, and has variable vegetation adapted to prolonged wet conditions (grasses, sedges, rushes, and other forbs).

palustrine scrub-shrub

A wetland type that occurs across a wide elevation range, is dominated by woody vegetation (shrubs and sapling trees) less than 20 feet tall, and has at least 30 percent cover of shrubs as the tallest vegetation layer.

palustrine forested

A wetland type dominated by woody vegetation that is more than 20 feet tall and has greater than 30 percent canopy cover.

percentile (statistical) sound level (L_%)

The sound level that is exceeded for a certain percentage of time during the measurement period. For example, an L₁₀ is the sound level exceeded 10 percent of the time.

permanent impact (wetlands)

An impact that results in a permanent loss of wetland acreage.

permittee-responsible mitigation

The actions required to meet the compensatory mitigation obligations are undertaken by the entities seeking a permit or an authorized agent or contractor working on their behalf. In this type of program, the permittee retains full responsibility for meeting all of the terms of the permit they receive.

perennial stream

Stream that flows year-round (continuously).

petroglyph

A design or motif pecked, incised, abraded, scratched, or carved with a sharp element into a rock surface.

pictograph

A design or motif produced by painting with mineral pigments on a rock surface; painted rock images.

pithouse

A habitation structure built entirely or partially underground.

pit run

Large angular rock used to line the streambed of a waterbody crossing to support vehicle loads, to prevent soil erosion, and to minimize sediment deposits and buildup in the waterway.

population

A group of organisms, all of the same species, which occupies a particular area. The term is used to refer to the number of individuals of a species within an ecosystem or of any group of like individuals.

pre-contact

The period identified broadly as the time prior to American Indian's contact with European Americans.

prime farmland

A U.S. Department of Agriculture land use classification USDA (7 CFR 657.5) defining land that has a favorable growing season, adequate precipitation or irrigation source, and soil characteristics that would provide for good to excellent crop production.

Public land (Federal Land Policy and Management Act)

Any land and interest in land owned by the United States within the several states and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regards to how the United States acquired ownership except (1) land located on the Outer Continental Shelf and (2) land held for the benefit of Indians, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

Public land (other)

As used in this document, federally owned surface or mineral estate specifically administered by the BLM.

quarry

An area from which rock or minerals (e.g., ore, limestone, coal, gravel, and sand pits) have been excavated and extracted for use off-site.

raptor

Bird of prey.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)

A classification system developed by the U.S. Forest Service to plan, manage, and allocate recreational resources to ensure a diverse set of quality outdoor recreation opportunities. The system includes 7 major classes, ranging from primitive to urban, that identify variations in the physical, social, and operational attributes of a given landscape.

rectification mitigation

Rectification of an impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment (40 CFR 1508.20).

reduction or elimination mitigation

Reduction or elimination of an impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action (40 CFR 1508.20).

residual impact

An impact from a land use authorization that remains after applying avoidance, minimization, rectification, and reduction/elimination measures; also referred to as “unavoidable impacts.”

research natural area

A part of a national network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to maintain biological diversity of National Forest System lands. Research Natural Areas are principally for nonmanipulative research, observation, and study. (Forest Service Manual-4063)

resource management plan (Bureau of Land Management)

The BLM RMPs provide land-use planning and management direction on a broad scale and guide actions on BLM-administered lands. Land-use plan decisions consist of desired outcomes (goals and objectives) and allowable uses and management actions.

resource management plan (Bureau of Reclamation)

Reclamation’s RMPs provide a guide for creating a balance for resource development, recreation, and protection of natural and cultural resources for the lands and waters they manage.

restricted area (NWSTF Boardman)

An RA is airspace established under 14 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 73 provisions, within which the flight of aircraft, while not wholly prohibited, is subject to restriction. Restricted areas are established when determined necessary to confine or segregate activities. An RA denotes an area where unusual, often dangerous, hazards to aircraft such as weapons firing, aerial gunnery, or Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) activities occur.

right-of-way

Authorization granted to use or occupy public land. A right-of-way grant authorizes access over, upon, under, and through public land for a specific time period for the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a project.

riprap

A layer of large stones used to prevent erosion in areas of concentrated runoff. Riprap can also be used on slopes that are unstable because of seepage problems.

rock image

Inclusive term referring to both pictographs and petroglyphs.

runoff

The part of precipitation that discharges into streams from various sources (surface, storm seepage, and groundwater) and at different speeds after a precipitation event.

scenic byway

A specially designated road that travels through an area of natural beauty.

sensitive species

BLM: Special Status Plants are those plants found on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management whose survival is of concern due to: 1) their limited distribution, 2) low number of individuals and/or populations, and 3) potential threats to habitat.

USFS: Plant or animal species 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.

sensitivity

The state of being readily affected by the actions of external influence.

shallow bedrock

Bedrock occurring 12 feet or less below the ground surface.

shield wire

A type of wire installed at the top of tower structures along a transmission line to protect conductors from lightning strikes by transferring the energy through the wire and structure and into the ground. Also known as a *ground wire*.

site

In general, a compact area, usually involving nonlinear facilities (e.g., substation, series compensation station). In archaeology, any locale showing evidence of human activity.

siting

Spatially locating (or setting into place) a structure or group of structures.

specially designated areas

Specially designated areas are lands managed by federal or state agencies to protect values and land uses unique to an area. These areas typically require more intensive management emphasis than is applied to surrounding public lands.

special recreation management area (SRMA)

A Bureau of Land Management administrative unit whose recreation opportunities or setting characteristics have unique, important, or distinct value and that therefore requires intensive management actions to meet recreation objectives regarding use, demand, access, signage, etc.

special status species

Plant and animal species designated by federal or state agencies for special monitoring, conservation, or protection, usually due to declining populations. This group includes threatened and endangered species, as well as other designations.

special-use airspace

Airspace wherein activities must be confined because of their nature or wherein limitations may be imposed upon aircraft operations that are not a part of those activities.

special-use permit

A permit that grants rights or privileges of use and occupancy under specific terms and conditions to the permit holder.

staging area

Designated area on a construction site for vehicle and construction equipment access and construction supplies storage.

structures

Structures support transmission lines. Structures are different sizes and shapes depending on the voltage of the line and number of circuits each tower structure needs to carry.

study area

A given geographical area delineated for specific research.

subsidence

Vertical collapse of the ground surface that can occur in areas where subsurface voids exist. Subsurface voids can be natural (sinkholes, caves) or human-made (solid or liquid mineral extraction).

surface water

Water on the earth's surface; that is, any open body of water such a stream, river, lake, or reservoir.

take

Harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, collecting, or attempting to engage in any such conduct.

talus

Accumulation of rock debris at the base of a cliff or steep slope from physical weathering.

temporary impact (wetlands)

An impact that results in a short-term decrease of wetland functions. Wetland functions can be restored once a temporary impact ceases.

T factor

Indicator of soil-loss tolerance (that is, the maximum average rate of annual soil loss that can occur while sustaining the crop productivity of a given soil).

threatened species

A plant or animal species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as being threatened with extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range. This designation is lower than "endangered" and provides individuals and their habitats with the second highest legal status for protection.

toolstone

An artifact that has been intentionally modified by retouch or unintentionally modified by usewear. Examples of toolstones are projectile points, unifaces, and scrapers.

total maximum daily load (TMDL)

Quantitative assessment of water quality problems, contributing sources, and load reductions or control actions needed to restore and protect bodies of water.

traditional cultural property (TCP)

Any built or natural locations, areas, or features considered sacred or culturally significant by a group or people 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.

traditional foods

Plant and animal resources gathered or cultivated by Native Americans for subsistence, economic, medicinal, and ceremonial purposes that have important tribal historical, cultural, and religious value.

turbidity

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

two-track road

Primitive roads that have been established over time by the passage of motorized vehicles. These roads do not receive maintenance or grading. These roads are characterized by a set of two ruts with vegetation growing in between the wheel ruts.

unavoidable impact

See residual impact.

undeveloped area

An area identified by the USFS containing wilderness qualities or attributes and roadless qualities pursuant to the National Forest System Land Resource Management Planning Rule of 1982.

unexploded ordnance

Unexploded bombs or explosive remnants of war (or military training) that did not explode when they were employed and still pose a risk of detonation.

unique farmland

Land, other than prime farmland, that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. The combination of soils, growing season, moisture supply, temperature, humidity, air drainage, elevation, and aspect are such that the land can economically produce sustainable high yields of these high-value crops when properly managed.

village

A permanent habitation, strategically located (i.e., water sources), which contains substantial residential areas, clusters of architectural remains, domestic features, and a high density of diverse cultural material. May contain structural remains used for public activities.

volt

A unit of electricity used to measure the electrical potential difference (pressure) that would cause a current of ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm.

water right

In Oregon, a permit from the Water Resources Department to use water from any source, whether it is underground, or from lakes or streams.

waterbody crossing

A stream channel crossing constructed or altered for safe vehicle and pedestrian passage and minimal human disturbance to aquatic habitats and species. Examples of waterbody crossing types include drive-throughs, drive-through fords, culverts, and channel spans:

drive-through: A minimally graded/filled crossing of a seasonally dry channel.

drive-through ford: A graded and stabilized crossing of a channel.

culvert: A drainage crossing consisting of a conduit above or below the ground with a stable road surface established on top of the conduit for vehicle passage.

channel-spanning structure: A crossing used to span waterbodies containing sensitive fish species.

watershed

See drainage basin.

waters of the United States

All waters that are, were, or could be used in interstate or foreign commerce—this includes all interstate waters such as lakes, reservoirs, rivers, tributaries, streams (including ephemeral streams), wetlands, and adjacent wetlands; all waters that are subject to ebb and flow of tides; all intrastate waters whose use, degradation, or destruction of could affect interstate or foreign commerce; and all impoundment of such waters.

wetlands

Generally, ecosystems whose soil is seasonally or continuously saturated for long periods, thereby creating conditions to support growth and reproduction of vegetative or aquatic life (e.g., swamps, marshes, bogs, river overflow areas, mudflats, natural ponds). As defined under 33 CFR 328.3 and 40 CFR 230.3 for state and federal regulatory purposes, “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.” Wetlands are important ecological resources that perform many functions, including groundwater recharge, flood flow attenuation and conveyance, erosion control, and water-quality improvement. They also provide habitat for many plants and animals, including threatened or endangered species.

wheel-line irrigation

A method of crop irrigation in which a straight line of irrigation pipe that is set on wheels rolls across a field from one end to the other. A standard wheel line is 1,320 feet long.

wild and scenic river (WSR)

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. Types of streams include flowing bodies of water or estuaries or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. The system consists of three types of streams: (1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and 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 from 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.

wilderness area

A federally designated area that is essentially undisturbed, other than by natural forces, and retains its primitive character. Wilderness areas are designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and are protected and managed through the National Wilderness Preservation System.

wilderness study area (WSA)

A roadless area that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics, as defined under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964, and that is managed by the Bureau of Land Management to preserve its suitability for federal wilderness designation. Wilderness study areas typically possess special scenic, scientific, educational, or historical value, and designation as a study area is based on size (at least 5,000 acres or of manageable size), naturalness (primarily shaped by nature), and opportunities (provides for solitude or primitive/unconfined types of recreation).

wildlife area

Areas managed primarily to provide wildlife habitat, with recreational use as an incidental benefit.

wildlife management area (WMA)

Protected areas set aside for the conservation of wildlife and for recreational activities involving wildlife.

wind energy

Form of energy conversion in which turbines convert the kinetic energy of wind into mechanical or electrical energy that can be used for power.

zoning

The separation or division of a municipality into districts, the regulation of buildings and structures in to districts in accordance with their construction and the nature and extent of their use, and the dedication of such districts to particular uses.