CHAPTER 7 – REFERENCES, GLOSSARY, AND INDEX

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GLOSSARY

404 permit: a permit required by Section 404 of the CWA before dredged or fill material may be discharged into waters of the US, including jurisdictional wetlands.

Abutment: structure built to support the lateral pressure of tailings slurry within the TSF.

Affected environment: the natural, physical, and human-related environment that is sensitive to changes from the alternatives.

Allotment (grazing): an area designated for the use of a certain number and kind of livestock for a prescribed period of time according to an Allotment Management Plan.

Acid Rock Drainage (ARD): drainage that occurs as a result of oxidation of sulfide materials (usually pyrite or iron sulfide) contained in rock that is exposed to air and water. The oxidation of sulfides produces sulfuric acid and sulfate salts.

Animal Unit Month (AUM): method of measuring the amount of forage consumed in a grazing area by multiplying the number of animal units by the number of months of grazing.

Bench: vertical level of an open (mining) pit.

Best Management Practices (BMPs): a practice or combination of practices that are the most effective and practical means of achieving resource protection objectives during resource management activities.

Big game: those species of large mammals normally managed as a sport hunting resource.

Bioaccumulation: the accumulation of substances (usually toxic) in an organism that occur when the organism absorbs a substance at a rate greater than that at which the substance is lost.

Critical Habitat: habitat area essential to the conservation of a Federally-listed species; habitat that is present in minimum amounts and is a determining factor for population maintenance and growth.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): a codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal government.

Conifer: any of a group of needle- and cone-bearing evergreen.

Constituent of Concern (COC): specific chemicals that are identified for evaluation in a site assessment process, usually because they have the potential to adversely affect other environmental resources.

Cultural resources: the physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, burial mounds, petroglyphs, etc.) having scientific, prehistoric, or social values.

Cultural site: any location that includes prehistoric and/or historic evidence of human use, or that has important socio-cultural value.

Cumulative effect: the effect on the environment that results from the incremental effect of the action when added to other actions over time and space. Individual effects can either amplify or negate each other depending on the location, timing, and types of interactions involved. Individually minor but collectively significant actions can result from cumulative effects.

Cumulative effects study area (CESA): an area with a mapable boundary where individual effects can accumulate and result in cumulative effects. Cumulative effects study areas are often different for each resource or plant and animal species, and often require consideration of more than one spatial temporal scale.

Decibel (dB): the basic unit of sound measure; one-tenth of a "Bel" is a measure on a logarithmic scale that indicates the ratio between two sound powers. A ratio of 2 in power corresponds to a difference of 3 decibels between two sounds.

Direct effects: effects on the environment that occur at the same time and place as the initial cause of action.

Disturbance: any event that alters the structure, composition, or function of an ecosystem, including grazing, human trampling, logging, foraging by wildlife ungulates, wind, flood, insects, disease, and fire.

Downgradient or downslope: refers to the direction of water flow (from high to low).

Easement: a right to cross or otherwise use private property for a specified purpose.

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

Embankment: a wall or bank of earth or stone built to prevent flooding (i.e., a dam).

Endangered species: "…[A]ny species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range…" which is designated by the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce (Endangered Species Act of 1973 Sec. 3(6)).

Environmental impact statement (EIS): a detailed statement prepared by the responsible official when a major Federal action that significantly affects the quality of the human environment is described, alternatives to the proposed action provided, and effects analyzed.

Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (EPT): the three insect orders (i.e., groups of related insects) commonly used to test water quality.

Erosion: detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity.

Fee simple: a permanent and absolute tenure of a tract of land with freedom to dispose of it at will.

Floodplain: the low and relatively flat areas adjacent to rivers and streams, usually formed mainly of river sediments and subject to regular flooding. A 100-year floodplain is that area subject to a 1 percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

Forage: plant material (usually grasses, forbs, and brush) that is available for animal consumption.

Fragmentation: the process by which aquatic or terrestrial habitats are increasingly subdivided into smaller units, resulting in their increased insularity as well as losses of total, connected habitat area.

Greenhouse gas (GHG): a gas that contributes to the "greenhouse effect" by absorbing infrared radiation, of which carbon dioxide is an example.

Groundwater: the supply of fresh water found beneath the Earth's surface, usually in aquifers, which supply wells and springs.

Habitat: the place where a plant or animal lives and grows.

Impoundment: storage location for mine waste material.

Indicator: a criteria used to judge the significance of the effect. These criteria are quantitative when feasible and otherwise qualitative. Indicators are based on regulatory requirements, baseline data, trends, and best management technology.

Indirect effects: secondary effects that occur in locations other than the location of the initial action or significantly later in time.

Interdisciplinary team: a group of resource professionals with different expertise that collaborates to develop and evaluate resource management decisions.

Intermittent stream: stream that flows only part of the time or during part of the year; some segments of the stream may flow year-round.

Invasive plants: nonnative aquatic and terrestrial species that have the capacity to dominate, overwhelm, and replace native vegetation. A species is considered invasive if it is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration, and if its introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Noxious weeds are a subset of invasive plants.

Irretrievable effect or commitment: the elimination of a resource, its productivity, and/or its utility for the life of the project. Irretrievable commitments occur when a resource is not consumed or destroyed but rather becomes unavailable for use for the foreseeable future.

Irreversible effect: the start of a chemical, biological, and/or physical process that could not be stopped. Irreversible commitments occur when a resource is permanently affected, consumed, or renewable only over long time spans. As a result, the resource or its productivity and/or its utility would be consumed, committed, or lost forever.

Key observation point: an observer position on a travel route used to determine visible area.

Land disposal: (BLM definition): any action which involves land leaving Federal ownership, e.g., a land exchange or land sale.

Land exchange (involving Federal land pursuant to the FLPMA): an exchange of one tract of Federal land for another (Federal or not), in which the public interest would be well served by the exchange.

Landscape: the aspect of the land that is characteristic of a particular region or area.

Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP): document that established direction for future decisions of the use of lands and resources in the planning area to best meet human needs over time, according to the land and resource capabilities.

Locatable mineral: mineral deposits subject to acquisition pursuant to the General Mining Law of 1872. Full definition available online: http://www.blm.gov/or/programs/minerals/locatable-definition.php.

Macroinvertebrate: an invertebrate animal (an animal without a backbone) too small to be seen without magnification. Refers to an aquatic organism used to measure stream health in this DEIS.

Management direction: a statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

Management Indicator Species (MIS): a species of wildlife, fish, or plant whose health and vigor are believed to accurately reflect the health and vigor of other species having similar habitat and protection needs to those of the selected indicator species.

Mitigation: actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, replace, or rectify the effect of a management practice or other action.

Molybdenum (Mo) or "Moly": a refractory metallic element used principally as an alloying agent in steel, cast iron, and superalloys to enhance hardenability, strength, toughness, and wear and corrosion resistance.

Monitoring: the process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated results of a management action are being realized or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit: regulatory agency document issued by either a Federal or State agency which is designed to control all discharges of pollutants from point sources into US waterways. The NPDES was established by the EPA to control the discharge of pollution point-sources, such as storm water and industrial discharges, that could potentially affect the quality of waters of the US.

Offered land: from the perspective of the proponent; the land owned by TCMC being offered to the BLM.

Open Pit (mining): a mining process whereby the target mineral is extracted from the ground by means of the removal of overburden from a seam of the mineral, as opposed to underground mining; or any mining at or near the surface.

Ore: a naturally occurring solid material from which metal or valuable mineral can be profitably extracted.

Outfall (001, etc - also see **NPDES**): discharge point of a stream potentially containing waste materials.

Overburden: waste material that must be mined to reach ore; sub-economic non-ore rock or soil associated with a mineral deposit.

Palustrine (**emergent, forested, scrub-shrub**): literally "marsh;" a group of wetland types including inland marshes, swamps, bogs, fens, tundra, and floodplains, all of which are non-tidal and substantially covered with emergent vegetation (trees, shrubs, moss, etc.).

Perennial stream: a stream that flows throughout the year and from source to mouth.

Permeability: the quality of a material or membrane that allows liquid (or gases) to pass through.

pH: the negative $\log_{10}$ of the hydrogen ion activity in solution; measure of acidity or alkalinity of a solution on a scale of 1-14. Neutral pH (fresh water) = 7.0; acidic pH is less than 7.0; alkaline pH is greater than 7.0.

Pit lake: water body that would form inside the excavation created for mining ore (the open pit) after mining is completed.

Population: a community of individuals that share a common gene pool.

Prevention of significant deterioration: an EPA program in which State and/or Federal permits are required in order to restrict emissions from new or modified sources in places where air quality already meets or exceeds primary and secondary ambient air quality standards.

Properly functioning condition: used to describe both the assessment method and the condition of a riparian or wetland area; a method for assessing the physical functioning of riparian-wetland system; how well the physical processes of the riparian-wetland system are functioning.

Pyrite: a hard, heavy, shiny, yellow mineral (iron-based), generally in cubic crystals; can be one of the elements responsible for acid rock drainage.

Record of Decision (ROD): a concise public document disclosing the decision made following preparation of an EIS and the rationale use to reach that decision.

Resource Management Plan (RMP; see **LRMP)**

Riparian: related to, living, or located in conjunction with a wetland, on the bank of a river or stream, or at the edge of a lake or tidewater. Situated on or pertaining to the bank of a river, stream, or other body of water. Riparian is normally used to refer to plants of all types that grow along streams, rivers, or at spring and seep sites.

Runoff: the draining away of water (and substances carried with it) from the surface of an area of land or structure.

Scoping: procedures by which agencies determine the extent of analysis necessary for a proposed action, (i.e., the range of actions, alternatives, and effects to be addressed; identification of significant issues related to a proposed action; and the depth of environmental analysis, data, and task assignments needed).

Sediment: any material carried in suspension by water that will ultimately settle to the bottom. Sediment has two main sources: from the channel area itself and from disturbed sites.

Sediment Load: the amount of sediment (sand, silt, and fine particles) carried by a stream or river.

Sedimentation Pond: ponds at the toe of each WRSF and TSF that intercept and hold runoff water and materials eroded from the faces of the WRSFs and the embankment of the TSF. See SRD.

Seepage: the slow movement of water through small cracks, pores, interstices, etc., of a material into or out of a body of surface or subsurface water.

Seepage return dam (SRD): special term for the sedimentation pond at the toe of the TSF embankment.

Selected land: from the perspective of the proponent; the BLM land desired by TCMC.

Sensitive species: those plant or animal species that are susceptible or vulnerable to activity effects or habitat alterations. A Forest Service or BLM designation, sensitive plant and animal species selected by the Regional Forester or the BLM State Director because population viability

may be a concern, as evidenced by a current or predicted downward trend in population numbers or density, or a current or predicted downward trend in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution. Sensitive species are not addressed in or covered by the Endangered Species Act.

Significant: as used in NEPA, requires consideration of both context and intensity. Context means that the significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole, and the affected region, interests, and locality. Intensity refers to the severity of effects (40 CFR 1508.27).

Special status (species): proposed, candidate, threatened, or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (by the USFWS), or those listed as sensitive by either the BLM or Forest Service.

Spillway: a passage for surplus water from a dam.

Surface water: all water naturally open to the atmosphere. This includes rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, streams, impoundments, seas, and estuaries

Tailings: wastewater contaminated with solid pollutants.

Tailings Storage Facility (TSF): the open lagoon into which tailings are placed and allowed to stand. The solid pollutants suspended in the water sink to the bottom of the lagoon.

Threatened species: any species of plant or animal that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Toe: base or bottom point.

Total maximum daily load (TMDL): the maximum amount of a pollutant that a body of water can receive while still meeting water quality standards.

Turbidity: the state, condition, or quality of opaqueness or reduced clarity of a fluid (i.e., stream flow), due to the presence of suspended particles.

Upgradient, upslope: against or opposite the direction of water flow.

Volatile organic compound: organic chemicals that have a high vapor pressure at ordinary, room-temperature conditions, causing large numbers of molecules to evaporate or sublimate from the liquid or solid form and enter the surrounding air.

Waste rock: rock or mineral with no commercial value which must be removed from a mine to access valuable ores.

Water right: a water claim that has been put to beneficial use and has been perfected or decreed according to state law.

Waters of the US (WUS): all waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce. Complete definition online at http://water.epa.gov/lawsregs/guidance/wetlands/CWAwaters.cfm.

Watershed: drainage basin for which surface water flows to a single point.

Wetland: area inundated by surface water or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

Winter range: a range, usually at lower elevation, used by migratory animals such as deer and elk during the winter months; usually better defined and smaller than summer ranges.

Waste Rock Storage Facilities (WRSF): two separate areas where waste rock has been deposited; located in the Buckskin and Pat Hughes drainages.

Young of the year: fish in their first year of life.

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[1] *Squaw Creek* is an official place name in Custer County, and appears in numerous published documents including US Geological Survey topographic maps. The name was established by the US Board of Geographic Names to maintain uniform geographic name usage throughout the Federal Government. However, the word *Squaw* is offensive to some people including the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. Therefore, *Squaw Creek* is hereafter referred to in the main text as *S. Creek*.