

GLOSSARY

100-year Flood – A flood with a magnitude that may occur once every 100 years. A 1-in-100 chance of a certain area being inundated during any year.

Access (road) – Road used for passage to and along transmission line for purposes of construction and maintenance.

Adequacy (electrical system) – Having sufficient resources to provide customers with a continuous supply of electricity at the proper voltage and frequency, virtually all of the time. “Resources” refers to a combination of electricity generating and transmission facilities, which produce and deliver electricity; and “demand-response” programs, which reduce customer demand for electricity.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) – An independent federal agency that advises the President and Congress on historic preservation matters and oversees the review of projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Aeolian – Wind-blown sand or silt material, which when deposited forms dunes or small sandy ridges.

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 that describes the existing condition of the environment.

Aggregation – The natural deposition of sediments in a river channel, gradually building up the slope or level of the riverbed.

Air Quality Classes – Classifications established under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration portion of the Clean Air Act that limit the amount of air pollution considered significant within an area. Class I applies to areas where almost any change in air quality would be significant, Class II applies to areas where the deterioration normally accompanying moderate well-controlled growth would be permitted, and Class III applies to areas where industrial deterioration would generally be allowed.

Alignment – The specific, surveyed route of a transmission line.

Alluvial Fan – A gradually sloping mass of alluvium (sand, clay, etc., deposited by moving water) that widens out like a fan from the place where a stream issues from a narrow mountain valley upon a plain or broad valley.

Alluvium – A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar consolidated material deposited during a comparatively recent geologic time by a stream or other body of running water in the bed of a stream, river, or floodplain, or as a cone or fan at the base of a mountain slope.

Ambient Air – Any unconfined portion of the atmosphere: open air, surrounding air.

GLOSSARY

American Indian tribe – A legal term meaning an American Indian or Alaska Native tribal entity that is recognized as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States, with the responsibilities, powers, limitations, and obligations attached to that designation. A federally recognized tribe is eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, is given certain inherent rights of self-government (i.e., tribal sovereignty), and is entitled to receive certain federal benefits, services, and protections because of their special relationship with the United States.

Aquifer – A stratum of permeable rock, sand, etc., that contains water. Water source for a well.

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

Archival – Pertaining to or contained in documents or records that preserve information about an event or individual.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) – A Bureau of Land Management (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.

Arroyo – A dry gully or a stream in a dry region.

Artifact – Any object showing human workmanship or modification, especially from a prehistoric or historic culture.

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 considered to have air quality as good as or better than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, as defined in the Clean Air Act. An area may be an attainment area for one pollutant and a nonattainment area for others.

A-Weighted Sound Level – Sound that is measured with a sound-level meter using the A-weighted response filter built into the meter circuitry. The A-weighted filter simulates the frequency response to the human ear.

Background – The portion of the visual landscape lying from the outer limit of the middleground to infinity. Color and texture are subdued in this area, and visual sensitivity analysis is primarily concerned with the two-dimensional shape of landforms against the sky.

Background Concentrations – Essential part of the total air quality concentration to be considered when determining source impacts. Background air quality includes pollutant concentrations due to (1) natural sources, (2) nearby sources other than those currently under consideration, and (3) unidentified sources.

GLOSSARY

Base Load – The minimum load of a utility over a given period of time.

Batch Plant – An area used for concrete mixing, temporary field office facility, material storage, and stations for equipment maintenance during construction of a transmission line. The area usually covers approximately 2 acres.

Bundle – Two or more conductors combined to form a phase.

Butte – A steep hill standing alone in a plain.

Caliche – Cemented deposit of secondary calcium carbonate found in layers or disseminated throughout the horizon of certain soils in arid to semiarid regions.

Candidate Species – Any species included in the *Federal Register's* Notice of Review being considered for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Capacity – The maximum load that can be generated or transmitted by generation or transmission facilities for a given period of time without exceeding approved limits of temperature or stress.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) – A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas produced by incomplete fossil fuel combustion. One of the six criteria pollutants.

Centerline – A line along the approximate middle of a transmission line right-of-way.

Circuit – A complete, closed conducting path over which electric current may flow.

Clean Air Act (CAA) – A federal law defining the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) responsibilities for protecting and improving the nation's air quality and the stratospheric ozone layer. The last major changes in the law, the CAA Amendments of 1990, were enacted by Congress in 1990. Legislation passed since then has made several minor changes. The CAA was incorporated into the United States Code as Title 42, Chapter 85.

Conductor – The wire cable strung between transmission line towers through which the electrical current flows.

Construction, Operation, and Maintenance Plan – A detailed plan depicting engineering, access, construction, environmental, and reclamation that is prepared prior to construction and operation of a proposed action.

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

GLOSSARY

Contrast Rating – A method of determining the extent of visual impact for an existing or proposed activity that would modify any landscape feature (land and water form, vegetation, and structures).

Corona – The discharge of energy from an energized transmission line that occurs when the voltage gradient exceeds the breakdown strength of air.

Corridor – A continuous strip of land, of defined width, through which a linear utility route (or routes) passes.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) – An advisory council to the President of the United States established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. This council reviews federal programs for their effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.

Counterpoise – Conductive cable buried in the ground at a transmission line tower to lower the resistance of the ground to conduct electricity.

Criteria Pollutant – The 1970 amendments to the Clean Air Act required the EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for certain pollutants known to be hazardous to human health. The EPA has identified and set standards to protect human health and welfare for six pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, total suspended particulates, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide. The term “criteria pollutants” derives from the requirement that the EPA must describe the characteristics and potential health and welfare effects of these pollutants. It is on the basis of these criteria that standards are set or revised.

Cultural Resource – Any resource associated with the human cultural environment; examples include artifacts and historic objects, archaeological sites, historic sites, historic properties, and traditional cultural properties.

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

Dead-end Structure – Transmission line tower structures that are more robust than tangent structures, used (1) to add longitudinal strength to the line, (2) at turning points (angles), (3) for added safety at crossings of other utilities, such as other transmission lines and roads, and (4) to interrupt long distances of suspension structures that would otherwise provide more exposure to catastrophic line failure over long distances.

Degradation – The wearing down, or away, and general lowering or reduction of the earth’s surface by the processes of weathering and erosion.

GLOSSARY

Design Features – Standard corporate practices and procedures for environmental protection and design features addressing specific environmental policies and regulatory requirements incorporated by the Proponent as part of the proposed action that are applied/used generally to the entire Project to reduce adverse impacts on a non-specific basis.

Devonian – A geologic period during the Paleozoic Era, spanning in time between 410 and 360 million years ago, marked by an abundance of fish and the appearance of the first land plants and amphibians.

Dip Slope – The downward slope of geologic strata.

Direct Effect – Effects caused by the action (i.e., construction) and occur at the same time and place (see Indirect Effect).

Direct Impact – Effects that are caused by the action (i.e., construction) and occur at the same time and place (see Indirect Impact).

Distance Zone – A visibility threshold distance where visual perception changes. The zones are usually defined as foreground, middleground, and background.

Distributed Generation – A method of generating electricity from multiple small energy sources very near to where the electricity is actually used.

Drainage Basin – The region or area bounded peripherally by a drainage divide or occupied by a river system.

Duct Bank – Containment system for underground transmission lines.

Economic Base – An area's economic base comprises industries that are primarily responsible for bringing outside income into the local economy. Economic base analysis measures the relative importance of industries for a particular area by comparing employment and income levels to a reference area (e.g., the United States).

Economy Energy – Energy produced and supplied from a more economical source in one system and substituted for that being produced or capable of being produced by a less economical source in another system.

Ecosystem – A complex system composed of a community of plants and animals, and that system's chemical and physical environment.

Ecotone – A transitional zone between two adjacent communities.

Edge Effect – The forest edge is the zone where different plant and animal communities and successional stages meet. Widening of the right-of-way would increase the edge effect by further changing the composition of the biotic communities.

GLOSSARY

Effects – In this realm, considered the cause and effect of an action or the projected degree of change caused by a process (see also Impact).

Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) – A space or region within which magnetic forces are present around an electrical current (also referred to as electromagnetic field).

Electric Field – Electric effect resulting from the voltage on a transmission line. Measured as volts per meter or kilovolts per meter.

Electric System Losses – Total electric energy losses in an electric system as a result of transmission, transformation, and distribution. Electric energy is lost primarily due to heating of transmission and distribution elements.

Electrostatic Field – Pertaining to a space or region within which atmospheric electricity at rest interferes with radar, radio, or television reception.

Emergent (vegetation) – Vegetation with all or part of their vegetative and reproductive parts above the water.

Endangered Species – A plant or animal species whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, as designated by the Secretary of the Interior. It is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

Endemic – Plants or animals that are native to a particular region or country.

Energy Conservation – A means of saving energy.

Environment – The surrounding conditions, influences, or forces that affect or modify an organism or an ecological community and ultimately determine its form and survival.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – A detailed written statement, as required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, when an agency proposes a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

Environmental Justice – The pursuit of equal justice and equal protection under the law for all environmental statutes and regulations without discrimination based on race, ethnicity, and/or socioeconomic status. Federal agencies must incorporate environmental justice as part of their mission by identifying and addressing the effects of programs, policies, and activities to ensure the opportunity for full and fair participation by affected communities in the decision-making process; and avoid, minimize, or mitigate disproportionately high and adverse health and environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

Eocene – The epoch of the Tertiary period spanning the time between 55.5 and 33.7 million years ago.

GLOSSARY

Ephemeral – Present only during a portion of the year. Generally refers to water courses.

Erosion – The group of processes whereby earth or rock material is loosened or dissolved and removed from any part of the earth's surface.

Escarpment – A steep slope or cliff formed by erosion or, less often, by faulting.

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

Extirpate – To destroy completely.

Extraction – The act of drawing a substance out of the earth (e.g., mining).

Fault – A fracture or fracture zone in the earth's surface along where there has been displacement of the sides, relative to one another and parallel to the fracture.

Fauna – The wildlife or animals of a specified region or time.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) – The agency primarily responsible for ensuring adequate energy supplies at just and reasonable rates and providing regulatory incentives for increased productivity, efficiency, and competition.

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

Floodplain – That portion of a river or stream valley, adjacent to the river channel, which is built of sediments and is inundated with water when the stream overflows its banks.

Foreground – The visible area from a viewpoint or use area out to a distance of 0.5 mile. The ability to perceive detail in a landscape is greatest in this zone.

Foreground-Middleground – The area visible from a travel route, residence, or other use area to a distance of 3 to 5 miles. The outer boundary of this zone is defined as the point where texture and form of individual plants are no longer apparent in the landscape. Vegetation is apparent only in patterns or outline.

Fossil – The remains or traces of an organism or assemblage of organisms preserved by natural processes in the earth's crust; exclusive of organisms buried since the beginning of historical time.

GLOSSARY

Fuel Cells – Power generating systems that produce DC electricity by combining hydrogen and oxygen in an electrochemical reaction. Compared with traditional generating technologies that use combustion processes first to convert fuel to heat and mechanical energy, fuel cells convert the chemical energy of a fuel to electric energy directly.

Fugitive Dust – Dust put into the atmosphere by the wind blowing over plowed fields, dirt roads, or desert or sandy areas with little or no vegetation. Also caused by mechanically generated particulate matter emissions put into the air by reason of vehicles or equipment moving soil or driving over unpaved roads (or dirty paved roads) and dusty areas.

Fugitive Emissions – Fugitive emissions are air pollutant emissions from facilities or activities that could not reasonably pass through a stack, chimney, vent, or other equivalent opening.

Generation source – A facility generating electrical power.

Geologic Formations – A rock unit distinguished from adjacent deposits by some common character, such as its composition, origin, or the type of fossil associated with the unit.

Geology – The science that relates to the earth, the rocks of which it is composed, and the changes the earth has undergone or is undergoing.

Geothermal Resource – Heat found in rocks and fluids at various depths that can be extracted by drilling or pumping for use as an energy source. This heat may be residual heat, friction heat, or a result of radioactive decay.

Grazing Potential – The potential of an area to support livestock grazing; measured by the number of acres of land required to support one animal unit for a month.

Groundwire – Two wires installed along the transmission line at the top of the tower structures to protect the conductors from lightning strikes by transferring the energy from the lightning through the ground wires and structures into the ground below.

Habitat – The region where a plant or animal naturally grows or lives. A specific set of physical conditions that surround a single species, a group of species, or a large community. In wildlife management, the major components of habitat are considered to be food, water, cover, and home range.

Habitat Fragmentation – A reduction in area of undisturbed, continuous habitat. Often affects interior forest species that depend on unbroken expanses of mature coniferous forest.

Hazardous Air Pollutants – Air pollutants not covered by ambient air quality standards, but that, as defined in the Clean Air Act, may present a threat of adverse human health effects or adverse environmental effects.

Herbaceous – Of, or having the nature of, an herb or herbs, as distinguished from woody plants.

GLOSSARY

Historic property – Any 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 [36 CFR 800]).

Homogenous – Having similarity in structure because of similarity in descent.

Hydrology – The science that relates to the water of the earth.

Impact – Modification in the status of the environment brought about by a proposed action.

Indirect Effects – 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.

Indirect Impact – Effects caused by the action and occur later in time or are farther removed, but are still reasonably foreseeable (see Direct Impact).

Infrastructure – The basic facilities on which a community depends, such as schools, power plants, or transportation and communication systems.

Insulator – A device resistant to electrical conduction used for isolating and supporting conductors.

Intermittent – A river or stream that flows for a period of time, usually seasonally during rainy periods, and stops during dry periods. In arid regions, dry periods may be interrupted by occasional flash floods from brief but intense rain storms.

Jurisdictions – The limits or territory within which authority may be exercised.

Kilovolt – 1,000 volts (a volt is a measure of electrical potential difference which would cause a current of ampere to flow through a conductor whose resistance is 1 ohm).

Kilovolts per Meter (kV/m) – A unit measure of electric field strength.

Kilowatt (kW) – A unit of power equivalent to 1,000 watts.

Lacustrine – Lakes and ponds that have more than 2 acres in surface area.

Landform – A term used to describe the many types of land surfaces that exist as a result of geologic activity and weathering (e.g., plateaus, mountains, plains, and valleys).

Link – A segment of a route alternative sharing common endpoints with adjacent links. Endpoints of a link are determined by the location of intersections with other segments (links) of other routes.

GLOSSARY

Loam – A rich soil composed of clay, silt, sand, and some organic matter.

Magnetic Field – Electric effect resulting from an electric current flowing in a conductor. Unit of measurement is a Gauss.

Megawatt (MW) – 1,000 kilowatts or 1 million watts (a watt is a unit of electrical power equal to 1/756th horsepower).

Mesa – An isolated, nearly level land mass, formed of nearly horizontal rocks, standing above the surrounding country and bounded with steep sides.

Migratory – Birds, animals, or people that migrate or move from one region or country to another.

Milligauss (mG) – A unit of measurement for magnetic fields.

Mineral Resources – Any inorganic or organic substance occurring naturally in the earth that has a consistent and distinctive set of physical properties. Examples of mineral resources include coal, nickel, gold, silver, and copper.

Miocene – The epoch of the Tertiary period spanning the time between 23.8 and 5.3 million years ago.

Mississippian – A period of the Paleozoic Era, spanning in time from about 345 to 320 million years ago.

Mitigate – To alleviate, reduce, or render less intense or severe.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) – The Clean Air Act requires the EPA to set NAAQS (40 CFR part 50) for pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment. The Clean Air Act established two types of national air quality 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. The EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards has set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for six principal pollutants, which are called “criteria” pollutants.

National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants – Emission standards set by the EPA for an air pollutant not covered by National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

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.

GLOSSARY

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) – Public Law 89-665; 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq. A law authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to expand and maintain a National Register of Historic Places and directing federal agencies to take into account the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the ACHP a reasonable opportunity to comment.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects maintained by the National Park Service (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 Vegetation – Natural vegetation originating in a certain region or country.

Nonattainment Area – Area that does not meet one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for the criteria pollutants designated in the Clean Air Act.

Nonspecular Conductors – Conductors treated to reduce reflection, rendering the conductor less shiny and noticeable.

Ozone (O₃) – A form of oxygen produced when an electric spark is passed through oxygen or air. One of six criteria pollutants.

Paleontology – The science that deals with the life of past geological ages through the study of the fossil remains of organisms.

Paleozoic – The geologic era between the Precambrian and Mesozoic eras covering the time between 570 million and 225 million years ago. The era was characterized by the development of the first fish, amphibians, reptiles, and land plants.

Palustrine – A marsh or marsh-like environment.

Particulate Matter/Particulates – Minute, separate particles, such as dust or other air pollutants. PM₁₀ is a measure of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter of less than, or equal to, a nominal 10 micrometers aerodynamic equivalent diameter. PM_{2.5} is a measure of particles in the atmosphere with a diameter of less than, or equal to, a nominal 2.5 micrometers aerodynamic equivalent diameter. These are criteria pollutants.

Per capita income – Calculated by dividing total income in a specified area (e.g., county) by the area's population.

Physiographic Province – An area characterized by distinctive topography, geologic structure, climate, drainage patterns, and other features and phenomena of nature.

Pithouse – A prehistoric dwelling partially constructed beneath the earth's surface.

GLOSSARY

Playa – The shallow central basin of a desert plain where water gathers after a rain and is evaporated.

Primitive – An area that is not developed; a pristine natural area.

Quaternary – The second period of the Cenozoic era spanning 1.8 (recently refined to 2.6) million years ago to the present. This is the period of glaciations in the northern hemisphere.

Quaternary Fault – A fault that has been active or has had displacement during the Quaternary Period, between 1.8 million years ago and the present.

Range – A large, open expanse in which livestock harvest natural vegetation.

Raptor – A bird of prey.

Rare – A plant or animal restricted in distribution. May be locally abundant in a limited area, or few in number over a wide area.

Reactive Compensation – Provides transmission system voltage stability and facilitates power transfers. Reactive compensation is provided by reactors and capacitors located within substations or transition stations.

Reclamation – Returning disturbed lands to a form and productivity that will be ecologically balanced.

Recontouring – Returning a surface to, or near to, its original form through some type of action, such as grading.

Record of Decision (ROD) – A document separate from, but associated with, an environmental impact statement that publicly and officially discloses the responsible official's decision on the proposed action.

Reference Centerline – For purposes of assessing impacts and recommending mitigation, a centerline is assigned that may be slightly adjusted during engineering design.

Region – A large tract of land generally recognized as having similar character types and physiographic types.

Reliability (electrical system) – In the context of the bulk power system, the National Electric Reliability Council defines reliability as the ability to meet the electricity needs of end-use customers, even when unexpected equipment failures or other factors reduce the amount of available electricity.

Renewable Resource – Any natural resource that can replenish itself naturally over time.

GLOSSARY

Residual Impact – The impact of an action remaining after application of mitigation.

Revegetation – The reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance, such as reseeding.

Right-of-way – A strip of land acquired by legal means, over which the power line and access roads would pass.

Riparian – An aquatic or terrestrial ecosystem associated with bodies of water, such as streams, lakes, or wetlands, or is dependent upon the existence of perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral surface or subsurface water drainage. Riparian areas are usually characterized by dense vegetation and an abundance and diversity of wildlife.

Riverine – Relating to, or within the limits of, river or stream channels.

Roadless Area – Areas identified by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to establish prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting pursuant to the Roadless Area Conservation Rule of 2001.

Route – A transmission route is the general path of a transmission line and associated facilities.

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

Scenic Quality Rating Unit (SQRU) – A portion of the landscape that displays primarily homogeneous visual characteristics of the basic landscape features (landform, water, vegetation, and structures and modifications), which separate it from the surrounding landscape.

Security (electrical system) – The ability of the bulk power system to withstand sudden, unexpected disturbances such as short circuits, or unanticipated loss of system elements due to natural or man-made causes

Sediment – Solid fragmental material, either mineral or organic, transported or deposited by air, water, gravity, or ice.

Seismicity – The likelihood of an area being subject to earthquakes. The phenomenon of earth movements.

Selective Mitigation – Measures or techniques developed to reduce adverse impacts on a case-by-case or selective basis.

Semi-arid – A climate or region characterized by little yearly rainfall and by the growth of a number of short grasses and shrubs.

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

GLOSSARY

Sensitivity Level Rating Unit (SLRU) – The designation (high, medium, or low) assigned to a landscape area to indicate the concern of the public to changes in the landscape (BLM designation).

Shield Wire – (see Ground Wire)

Significant (Impact) – “Significant” has been used in this document to describe any impact that would cause a substantial adverse change or stress to one or more environmental resources. In general, all potential high impacts were considered to be significant.

Simulations – The use of a computer to calculate the effect of a given physical process.

Site – In archaeology, any locale showing evidence of human activity.

Solar Energy – Energy derived from the sun in the form of solar radiation.

Spanning – Placing tower structures so the transmission line extends across a sensitive area or resource

Species – A group of individuals of common ancestry that closely resemble each other structurally and physiologically, and in nature interbreed producing fertile offspring.

Staging Area – A designated area where vehicles, supplies, and construction equipment are positioned for use and access to a construction site.

Standard Mitigation – Measures, techniques, or practices applied/used generally to reduce adverse impacts on a non-specific basis.

Study Area – A given geographical area delineated for specific research.

Subsidence (soil) – The sinking of the earth’s surface because of the withdrawal of water or mineral resources.

Subspecies – Any natural subdivision of a species that exhibits small, but persistent morphological variations from other subdivisions of the same species living in different geographical regions or times.

Substation – An assemblage of equipment, enclosed by a fence, occurring at points along a transmission line. A facility in an electrical transmission system with the capability to route and control electrical power, and to transform power to a higher or lower voltage. Equipment includes transformers, circuit breakers, and other equipment for switching, changing, or regulating the voltage of electricity.

Substrates – Sediment that lies beneath the surface of the earth.

GLOSSARY

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) – A pungent, colorless, gas formed primarily by the combustion of fossil fuels. One of the six criteria pollutants.

Tangent Structure – Typical transmission line structure. Can be one of several types, placed four to five per mile in linear position.

Technical Report – Documentation of detailed studies summarized in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Terminal – (see Substation)

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

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.

Transfer capability – The measure of the ability of interconnected electric systems to move or transfer power in a reliable manner from one area to another over all transmission lines (or paths) between those areas under specified system conditions. The units of transfer capability are in terms of electric power, generally expressed in megawatts (MW).

Undeveloped Area – An area identified by the USFS containing wilderness characteristics and roadless qualities pursuant to the National Forest System Land Resource Management Planning Rule of 2000, amended 2009. These areas can overlap with inventoried roadless areas.

Use Volume – The total volume of visitor use that each segment of a travel route or use-area receives.

Utility Corridor – A route used by a utility for pipelines, cables, and transmission lines.

Vegetation Communities – A combination of dominant plant species which live together in the same region or on the same landform.

Viewshed – Visible portion of the specific landscape seen from a specific viewpoint, normally limited by landform, vegetation, distance, and existing cultural modifications.

Visual Management Objectives – The term used in this study to generally define Visual Resource Management (BLM) or Scenic Integrity Objective levels (USFS).

GLOSSARY

Visual Quality Objective – Classification of landscape areas, according to the types of structures and changes that are acceptable to meet established visual goals (Forest Service designation).

Visual Resource Inventory (VRI) Classes – Classification of landscape areas composed of scenic quality, sensitivity level rating units, and distance zones for inventory purposes (BLM).

Visual Resource Management (VRM) Classes – Classification of landscapes according to the kinds of structures and changes acceptable to meet established visual goals (BLM).

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) – Any organic compound that participates in atmospheric photochemical reactions except those designated by the EPA as having negligible photochemical reactivity.

Waters of the United States – All waters currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including adjacent wetlands and tributaries to waters of the United States, and all waters by which the use, degradation, or destruction of which would affect or could affect interstate or foreign commerce.

Wetlands – Those areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support vegetative or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.

Wilderness – A congressionally designated area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation that is protected and managed to preserve its natural conditions, as described in Section 2A of the Wilderness Act of 1964.

Wilderness Characteristics – Key characteristics of wilderness listed in section 2 (c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and used by Bureau of Land Management in conducting wilderness inventories. These characteristics are features of the land associated with the concept of wilderness that specifically deals with naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. These characteristics may be considered in land use planning when Bureau of Land Management determines that those characteristics are reasonably present, of sufficient value (condition, uniqueness, relevance, importance), and need (trend, risk), and are practical to manage (from IM-2003-275, Change 1, Considerations of Wilderness Characteristics in LUP, Attachment 1).

GLOSSARY

Wilderness Study Area – A roadless area or island of undeveloped federal land that has been inventoried and found to possess wilderness characteristics described under Title VI, Section 603 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Section 2C of the Wilderness Act of 1964. These characteristics are: (1) generally appears to have been affected mainly by the forces of nature, with human imprints substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least 5,000 acres or is large enough to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historic value.

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.

