

## GLOSSARY

AIR QUALITY The composition of air with respect to quantities of pollution therein; used most frequently in connection with "standards" of maximum acceptable pollutant concentrations. Used instead of "air pollution" when referring to programs.

CANOPY The stratum containing the crowns of the tallest vegetation present, (living or dead) usually above 20 feet.

CATASTROPHIC (Severe wildland fire) Fire that burns more intensely than the natural or historical range of variability, thereby fundamentally changing the ecosystem, destroying communities and/or rare or threatened species/habitat, or causing unacceptable erosion.

CLEAN AIR ACT A federal law enacted to ensure that air quality standards are attained and maintained. Initially passed by Congress in 1963, it has been amended several times.

CONDITION CLASS Based on coarse scale national data, Fire Condition Classes measure general wildfire risk as follows:

Condition Class 1. For the most part, fire regimes in this Fire Condition Class are within historical ranges. Vegetation composition and structures are intact. Thus, the risk of losing key ecosystem components from the occurrence of fire remains relatively low.

Condition Class 2. Fire regimes on these lands have been moderately altered from their historical range by either increased or decreased fire frequency.

Condition Class 3. Fire regimes on these lands have been significantly altered from their historical return interval. The risk of losing key ecosystem components from fire is high. Fire frequencies have departed from historical ranges by multiple return intervals. Vegetation composition, structure and diversity have been significantly altered. Consequently, these lands verge on the greatest risk of ecological collapse. (*Cohesive Strategy, 2002, in draft*)

COVER The area on the ground covered by the combined aerial parts of plants expressed as a percent of the total area.

CRITICAL HABITAT (1) Specific areas within the habitat a species occupies at the time it is listed under the Endangered Species Act that have physical or biological features (a) that are essential to the conservation of the species and (b) that may require special management considerations or protection, and (2) specific areas outside the habitat a species occupies at the time it is listed that the Secretary of the Interior determines are essential for the species conservation.

CULTURAL RESOURCES Remains of human activity, occupation, or endeavor, reflected in districts, sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture, and natural features that were important in past human events. Cultural resources consist of (1) physical remains, (2) areas where significant human events occurred, even though evidence of the events no longer remains, and (3) the environment immediately surrounding the actual resource.

DEPENDENT An animal species, which requires a certain vegetative community (or habitat) type during part of its life cycle.

DESIRED PLANT COMMUNITY The kind, amount, and proportion of vegetation which best meets land use objectives for a particular site, and which must be within the site's capability to produce through management or a combination of management and land treatment.

ECOSYSTEM An interacting system of organisms considered together with their environment.

ENDANGERED SPECIES Plant or animal species that are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of their range.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT of 1973 (as amended) Federal law to ensure that no federal action will jeopardize federally listed or proposed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA) A systematic environmental analysis of a site-specific BLM activity used to determine whether the activity would have a significant effect on the quality of the environment and whether an environmental impact statement is required.

ENVIRONMENT The complex surroundings of an item or area of interest, such as air, water, natural resources, and their physical conditions (temperature, humidity).

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT (FLPMA) Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (Public Law 94-570, 90 Stat. 2743, 43 USC 1701).

FIRE BEHAVIOR The manner in which a fire reacts to the influences of fuel, weather, and topography.

FIRE MANAGEMENT Activities required for the protection of burnable wildland values from fire and the use of prescribed fire to meet land management objectives.

FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE Planned, measurable result desired from fire protection and use based on land management goals and objectives.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN Strategic plans that define a program to manage wildland fires based on an approved land management plan. The plan must address a full range of fire management activities that support ecosystem sustainability, values to be protected, protection of firefighter and public safety, public health, and environmental issues. The plan must be consistent with resource management objectives and the activities of the area.

FUEL All the dead and living material that will burn. This includes grasses, dead branches and pine needles on the ground, as well as standing live and dead trees. Also included are minerals near the surface, such as coal that will burn during a fire, and human-built structures.

FUELBREAK A wide strip with a low amount of fuel, usually grass, in a brush or wooded area to provide soil cover and serve as a line of fire defense.

FUEL TYPE An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, or other characteristics that will cause a predictable rate of spread or resistance to control under specified weather conditions.

HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION Prioritize hazardous fuels reduction where the negative impacts of wildland fire are greatest.

IGNITION METHOD The means by which a fire is ignited, such as hand-held drip torch, helitorch, and backpack propane tanks.

INVASIVE SPECIES Species that have been introduced into an environment in which they did not evolve and thus usually have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread.

LAND USE PLAN A plan that provides management direction on future land uses.

LONG-TERM Ten to twenty years.

MITIGATION MEASURES Means taken to avoid, compensate for, rectify, or reduce the potential adverse impacts of an action.

MONITORING The orderly collection, analysis, and interpretation of resource data to evaluate progress toward meeting management objectives.

MOSAIC The intermingling of plant communities and their successional stages in such a manner as to give the impression of an interwoven design.

NOXIOUS WEED A plant that causes disease or has other adverse effects on man or his environment and therefore is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and public health. Noxious weeds are designated and regulated by various State and Federal laws. In most cases, noxious weeds are also nonnative species.

PRESCRIBED BURNING The planned application of fire to wildland fuels in their natural or modified state, under specific conditions of fuels, weather, and other variables, to allow the fire to remain in a predetermined area and to achieve site-specific fire and resource management objectives.

PRESCRIPTION Measurable criteria that define the conditions under which a prescribed fire will be ignited, guide selection of appropriate management responses, and indicate other required actions. Prescription criteria may include safety, economic, public health, environmental, geographic, administrative, social, or legal considerations.

REHABILITATION Short term actions taken following fire to stabilize soils and encourage rapid establishment of vegetative cover.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN A multiple-use plan that provides management direction for all Federal resources. It is often supplemented by more detailed, site-specific management plans for a particular land use activity, such as livestock grazing.

RESTORATION A long-term landscape-based approach to changing the ecological health of the rangelands which requires implementation of a set of actions that promotes plant community diversity and structure to encourage communities to be more resilient to future disturbance and invasive species.

RIPARIAN The banks and adjacent areas of water bodies, watercourses, seeps, and springs. These waters provide soil moisture sufficiently in excess of the otherwise available locally to provide a moister habitat than that of contiguous flood plains and uplands.

SENSITIVE SPECIES A list of animal and plant species that were designated by the Nevada BLM State Director with the State of Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural

Resources. It is BLM policy to give these species the same protection as federal candidate species in BLM Manual 6840.06.

SHORT-TERM Five years or less.

SHRUB A woody perennial plant differing from a perennial herb by its persistent and woody stem; and from a tree by its low stature and habit of branching from the base.

SPECIES COMPOSITION A term relating the relative abundance of one plant species to another using a common measurement; the proportion (percentage) of various species in relation to the total on a given area.

SUPPRESSION All the work of extinguishing or confining a fire beginning with its discovery.

THREATENED SPECIES Plant or animal species that are not in danger of extinction but are likely to become so within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

TREATMENT A procedure whose effect is to be measured and compared with the effect of other procedures. Examples include a fall burned prescribed fire, an unburned "control", or an area burned with a specific ignition method or pattern.

UNDERBURN A fire that consumes surface fuels but not trees and shrubs.

VEGETATION COMMUNITY A kind of existing plant community with distinguishable characteristics described in terms of the present vegetation that dominates the aspect or physiognomy of the area.

VEGETATIVE REGENERATION Development of new aboveground plants from surviving plant parts, such as by sprouting from a root crown or rhizomes. Even if plants form their own root system, they are still genetically the same as the parent plant.

VISUAL RESOURCES The visible physical features on a landscape (e.g., land, water, vegetation, animals, structures and other features).

WILDERNESS An area established by the Federal Government and administered either by the Forest Service, USDA or National Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, or Bureau of Land Management, in order to conserve its primeval character and influence for public enjoyment, under primitive conditions, in perpetuity.

WILDERNESS INVENTORY An evaluation of the public lands in the form of a written description and map showing those lands that meet the wilderness criteria as established under section 603(a) of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act, which will be referred to as wilderness study areas (WSAs).

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA) A roadless area or island that has been inventoried and found to have wilderness characteristics as described in section 603 of FLPMA and section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 891).

WILDFIRE A fire occurring on wildland that is not meeting management objectives and thus requires a suppression response.

WILDLAND An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, powerlines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

WILDLAND FIRE Any fire occurring on the wildlands, regardless of ignition source, damages, or benefits.

WILDLAND FIRE USE Wildland fire used to protect, maintain, and enhance resources and, when possible, allowed to function in its natural ecological role. Use of fire will be based on approved Fire Management Plans and will follow specific prescriptions contained in operational plans.