

GLOSSARY

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Abutment - a structure that supports the ends of a dam or a bridge.

Acquired lands - lands where title has been obtained from non-federal sources by purchase, donation, exchange, or condemnation, and some portion of whose cost has been charged to the project's construction costs. This term applies to easements as well as fee title lands.

Acre-foot - measure of volume that would cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot. One acre-foot is approximately 325,851 gallons.

Active storage - reservoir capacity that can be used for authorized purposes.

Advisory Council - refers to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Affected environment - existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as the result of a proposed human action.

Allocation, allotment - refers to a distribution of water through which means specific persons or legal entities are assigned individual rights to consume pro rata shares of a specific quantity of water under legal entitlements.

Alluvium - sedimentary material transported and deposited by the action of flowing water.

Ambient - surrounding natural conditions (or environment) in a given place and time.

Apportionment - refers to the distribution of water available to each water right holder.

Aquifer - a geologic formation that contains sufficient saturated materials to be capable of storing and transmitting water in usable quantities to a well.

Benthic - bottom of rivers, lakes, or oceans; organisms that live on the bottom of water bodies.

Candidate species - plant or animal species not yet officially listed as threatened or endangered, but which is undergoing status review by the FWS.

Catch - at a recreational fishery, refers to the number of fish captured whether they are kept or released.

Consumptive use - the use of water by plants, animals, or humans. This includes evapotranspiration but does not include water that returns to the surface or groundwater system.

Cooperating Agency - with respect to the NEPA process, an agency having jurisdiction by law or special expertise concerning an aspect of a proposed project action that is requested by the lead agency to participate in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Court - United States Supreme Court.

Criteria - standards used for making a determination.

Critical Habitat - specific areas with physical or biological features essential to the conservation of a listed species and which may require special management considerations or protection.

Cubic foot per second (cfs) - A rate of water flow equal to 1 cubic foot of water passing a point in 1 second of time.

Cultural resource - a site or structure that is part of the heritage of an area and typifies a particular stage of human activity in the area. Includes archeological, historic, and undisturbed natural sites that have historic or prehistoric associations.

Discharge (flow) - volume of water that passes a given point within a given period of time; expressed in this document in cfs.

Drawdown - lowering of a reservoir's water level; process of depleting reservoir or groundwater storage.

Easement - a right to the use of land that does not involve change of ownership.

Endangered Species - a species or subspecies whose survival is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) - a law enacted by Congress to provide for the conservation of endangered or threatened species of fish, wildlife, and plants, and for other purposes.

Flash streams - streams that have a sudden or flash flow or flush flow for a comparatively brief period of time, while such stream is draining the particular basin or source of supply fed by melting snows.

Forage Fish - generally, small fish that reproduce prolifically and are consumed by predators.

Fry - life stages of fish between the egg and fingerling stages.

Gaging station - specific location on a stream where systematic observations of hydrologic data are obtained through mechanical or electrical means.

Headwater - the source and upper part of a stream.

Highly sensitive uses - schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, daycare centers, and other areas where large numbers of people concentrate, who because of their age, physical condition, or large number may require assistance to evacuate.

Impoundment - body of water created by a dam.

Indian Trust Assets - legal assets associated with the rights or property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals.

Inflow - water flowing into a lake or reservoir from a river and its tributaries; or water entering a river from its tributaries.

Irretrievable commitment - of natural resources means loss of production or use of resources as a result of a decision.

Irreversible commitments - are decisions affecting renewable resources such as soils, wetlands, and water fowl habitat. Such decisions are considered irreversible because their implementation would affect a resource that has deteriorated to the point that renewal can occur only over a long period of time or at great expense, or because they would cause the resource to be destroyed or removed.

Irrigation return flows - excess Irrigation Water not consumed that returns to the main stem (or a collection ditch) from surface runoff, subsurface underflow, or groundwater inflows.

Irrigation season - usually the 6-month period beginning March 15 and ending September 15 of any given year.

Juvenile - young fish older than 1 year but not having reached reproductive age.

Landslide - refers to rock or debris descending down a slope slowly to very rapidly due to gravity.

Larval fish - fish in an immature stage that develop from the fertilized egg before assuming the characteristics of the adult.

Lead agency - the agency initiating and overseeing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement or other NEPA compliance document.

Liquefaction - a phenomenon in which saturated soils lose strength and cohesion when subjected to dynamic forces, such as shaking during an earthquake. Liquefaction can also occur in unsaturated soils with low cohesion, such as sand.

Mean monthly flow - average flow for the month, usually expressed in cfs.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) - a written agreement between two willing parties that expresses the explicit intent of the agreed-upon action.

Milligram per liter - equivalent to one part per million.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (P.L. 91-190, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4347) - a law enacted by Congress to establish a national policy for the environment, to provide for the establishment of a Council on Environmental Quality, and for other purposes.

National Historical Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (P.L. 89-665, 16 U.S.C. 470) - a law enacted by Congress to establish a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the nation, and for other purposes.

National Performance Review - a federal government review enacted by President Bill Clinton that was designed to review federal procedures and operations and to ultimately create a government that works better and costs less.

Non-point source - is a diffuse source, such as runoff from a large area of land. Chemical constituents from these sources are often the result of natural background sources. However, NPS pollution can result from agriculture (e.g., irrigation and grazing of livestock), urban storm water runoff, leaking septic tanks, and erosion from disturbed areas (e.g., highway construction, mining, or off-road vehicles).

Open space - undeveloped areas, golf courses, beaches, and other areas.

Permeability (soil) - ease with which water flows through a layer of soil.

Point source - discharges from an identifiable point (e.g. pipe, pond, culvert, or drain) into a water body.

Prime (agricultural) farmland - is defined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, NRCS as best suited to the production of row, forage, and fiber crops.

Public domain lands - refer to lands that have never left federal ownership under the jurisdiction of the BLM. Public domain lands are also known as public lands. Public land is a term used for the federal land of the western United States, much of which is administered by the BLM.

Public involvement - process of obtaining citizen input into each stage of development of planning documents.

Quitclaim Deed - a written instrument that transfers a party's rights concerning particular property to another party.

Recognized environmental condition - a recognized environmental condition is defined as the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substance or petroleum product on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of a release of hazardous substance or petroleum product into structures on the property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of the property. The term includes hazardous substances or petroleum products even under conditions in compliance with laws.

Reclamation - the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation.

Reclamation Project - any irrigation of multiple-purpose project constructed by the Secretary through Reclamation, the purposes of which are authorized by federal Reclamation law (the Act of June 17, 1902 and Acts supplementary to and amendatory thereof).

Reclamation Project Lands - real property owned by the United State and administered by the Secretary, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation, including all acquired and withdrawn lands and water areas under jurisdiction of Reclamation.

Riparian - pertaining to the bank of a river, pond, or lake.

Rural land uses - agricultural areas, farms, orchards, and nurseries.

Salinity - a term used to refer to the dissolved minerals in water, also referred to as total dissolved solids.

Secretary - the Secretary of the Interior or a duly authorized representative.

Sediment - unconsolidated solid material that comes from weathering of rock and is carried by, suspended in, or deposited by water or wind.

Sediment load - mass of sediment passing through a stream.

Seepage - relatively slow movement of water through a medium such as sand.

Spills - water releases from a dam in excess of power plant capacity.

Spillway - overflow facility at a dam.

Stage - elevation of the water surface.

Stock water diversions - irrigation diversion outside the irrigation season to provide water for livestock.

Stream flow station - a site where a continuous record of discharge is obtained. Within the USGS, the term is used only for a station where a continuous record of discharge is obtained.

Subsidence - A dropping of the land surface as a result of ground water being pumped. Cracks and fissures can appear in the land. Subsidence can be caused by various natural phenomena such as tectonic movement, consolidation, hydro-compaction, or rapid sedimentation; additionally, subsidence can also result from a variety of human activities, including withdrawal of water or petroleum from the subsurface. Subsidence resulting from over pumping is usually an irreversible process.

Tailwater - water immediately downstream of the outlet from a dam or hydroelectric power plant.

Traditional cultural property (TCP) - a site or resource that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community.

Tributary - river or stream flowing into a larger river or stream.

Turbidity - a measure of clarity or cloudiness of water, measured by how deeply light can penetrate into the water from the surface.

Unique farmland - is defined by the NRCS as farmland that is not classified as “prime farmland,” but has special combinations of soil quality, location, topography, growing season, and moisture supply necessary to produce high yields of specialty crops such as fruits and vegetables.

Urban land uses - residential, commercial, and industrial areas.

Watershed - the drainage area upstream of a specified point on a stream.

Wetlands - areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

Withdrawn lands - federal lands withheld from settlement, sale, location of minerals, or entry under some or all of the general lands laws for the purpose of limiting activities in order to maintain other public values, reserve the area for a particular public purpose, or transfer jurisdiction of this area from one federal agency to another. When that public purpose is a Reclamation project, withdrawn lands are made available by the United States for project use at no cost to the repayment entity. Withdrawals from the public domain transfer jurisdiction from the BLM to Reclamation; withdrawn lands are not public lands.

Young-of-year - small fish hatched from eggs spawned in the current year.

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