

## **Appendix B**

### **Glossary**



# GLOSSARY

## **17(b) easement**

Sec.17(b) easements are rights reserved to the U.S. on lands conveyed to Native corporations. The primary purpose of Sec. 17(b) easements is for accessing federal, state, or municipal corporation (including boroughs) lands and navigable waters. These rights are reserved under Sec. 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) when the BLM conveys land to a Native corporation under ANCSA.

## **3809 regulations**

Surface management regulations for locatable mineral operations.

- A -

## **acquired lands**

Lands in federal ownership that were obtained by the government through purchase, condemnation, or gift; or by exchange. Acquired lands constitute one category of public lands

## **activity level plan**

A more site-specific detailed plan that is derived from the resource management plan. The activity plan is developed to provide the blueprints for designing and implementing individual projects or management actions on the ground that are called for in the RMP (Loomis 2002)

## **adjudicate**

To decide or settle something in a legal setting.

## **Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)**

A law passed in 1980 designating 104 million acres for conservation by establishing or expanding national parks, wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, wilderness areas, forest monuments, conservation areas, recreation areas, and wilderness study areas to preserve them for future generations.

## **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)**

A law passed by Congress in 1971 to settle aboriginal land claims in Alaska. Under the settlement, the Natives received title to a total of over 44 million acres, to be divided among some 220 Native Villages and 12 Regional Corporations established by the act. The corporations shared in a payment of \$962,500,000.

## **Alaska Statehood Act 1958**

A law passed by Congress allowing Alaska to become the 49<sup>th</sup> state. The Act required 103,350,000 acres of federal land to be conveyed to the State of Alaska.

## **alluvium**

A general term for clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar unconsolidated material deposited by a stream or other body of running water.

## **alternative**

One of a number of possible options for responding to the purpose and need for action.

## **ambient**

Environmental or surrounding conditions.

## **anadromous**

Ascending rivers from the sea for spawning. Salmon are an anadromous species.

**aquatic**

Living or growing in or near water.

**archaeology**

The study of past human cultures through the analysis of their material and physical remains.

**Anchorage Field Office**

One of three BLM field offices located in Alaska. A field office is generally responsible for the local management and oversight of resources within their geographical jurisdictions by ensuring that BLM policies are implemented and coordinated, and that established program technical standards are met. The Anchorage Field Office is responsible for managing approximately 16 million acres of public lands in Alaska.

**archipelago**

A group of many islands in a large body of water.

**Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

An area within the public lands where special management attention is required to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values, fish and wildlife or natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

**artifact**

An object that was made, used, and/or transported by humans that provides information about human behavior in the past. Examples include pottery, stone tools, bones with cut marks, and coins.

**assessment**

The act of evaluating and interpreting data and information for a defined purpose.

- B -

**Before Present (B.P.)**

A term used to describe the time periods before the present.

**benthic**

Of or pertaining to the bottom of a stream, lake, sea, or ocean.

**best management practices (BMPs)**

A suite of techniques that guide, or may be applied to, management actions to aid in the achieving of desired outcomes.

**BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards**

Established goals for BLM-managed land and resource conditions in Alaska, which are used as criteria for land use planning decisions. The BLM intends that these standards promote healthy, sustainable ecosystems that support a wide range of public values and uses, reflective of the BLM multiple use land management mission. The BLM further intends to provide for a wide variety of public land uses without compromising the long-term health and diversity of the land and without sacrificing significant natural, cultural, and historical resource values.

**boreal**

Related to or growing in northern regions.

## - C -

**candidate species**

A species designated as a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service. A list of candidate species has been published in the Federal Register.

**cinders**

Coarse matter ejected from a volcano with a particle size of 0.01 to 1 inch in diameter.

**closed**

Generally denotes that an area is not available for a particular use or uses (BLM Handbook 1601-1).

**closed area** (*in reference to OHV designations*)

An area where off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is prohibited. Use of OHVs in closed areas may be allowed for certain reasons (e.g., to access subsistence resources); however, such use shall be made only with the approval of the authorizing officer (43 CFR 8340.05(h)).

**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. The code is divided into 50 titles, which represent broad areas subject to federal regulation. Each volume of the code is revised at least once each year and issued on a quarterly basis.

**collaboration**

A cooperative process in which interested parties, often with widely varied interests, work together to seek solutions.

**commercial use**

Any use of public lands where money is paid for services provided.

**commercial recreational use**

Recreational use of public lands and related waters for business or financial gain. When any person, group, or organization makes or attempts to make a profit, receive money, amortize equipment, or obtain goods or services, as compensation from participants in recreational activities occurring on public lands, the use is considered commercial. An activity, service, or use is commercial if anyone collects a fee or receives other compensation that is not strictly a sharing of, or is in excess of, actual expenses incurred for the purpose of the activity, service, or use (e.g. guides, outfitters, air taxi operators etc.).

**conservation system units**

Any unit in Alaska of the NPS, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, National Trails System, National Wilderness Preservation, or a National Forest Monument, including existing units, units established, designated or expanded by or under the provisions of this Act, additions to such units and any such unit established, designated, or expanded hereafter (ANILCA Section 102(4)).

**conveyed**

Title to land was transferred from one party to another. The United States conveys title to land to Native corporations by patent and interim conveyance (IC) and to the State of Alaska by patent and tentative approval (TA).

**Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)**

The federal agency responsible for the oversight and development of national environmental policy. Created by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), CEQ also shares responsibility with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

**cultural resources**

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

**cumulative effects**

Impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

- D -

**d(1) withdrawal**

A withdrawal made under section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for study to determine the proper classification of the lands and to determine the public values of the lands which need protection.

**decollement**

The independent disruption by folding or faulting of sedimentary rocks by sliding over the underlying rocks (Prepared under the direction of the American Geological Institute 1974).

**designated trail**

A trail that is marked on the ground and mapped for public use. It is an administrative and not a legal designation. In some areas, motorized travel or other means of access may be limited to designated trails.

**developed recreation**

Recreation dependent on facilities provided to enhance recreation opportunities in concentrated use areas.

**dispersed recreation**

Recreation activities of an unstructured type that are not confined to specific locations such as recreation sites. Example of these activities may be hunting, fishing, off-road vehicle use, hiking, and sightseeing.

**disposals**

Changes in ownership of land or resources; for example, land title may be transferred from public domain to the State of Alaska, Native corporations, local governments, individuals, etc. Section 203 of FLPMA establishes criteria under which public lands may be considered for disposal.

**drainage**

A general term applied to the removal of surface or subsurface water from a given area either by gravity or by pumping. May also refer to a geographic area in which the landform directs surface water to a central low point such as a river or lake.

## - E -

**ecosystem**

A naturally occurring, self-maintained system of varied living and non-living interacting parts that are organized into biophysical and human dimension components.

**ecosystem health**

A condition where the parts and functions of an ecosystem are sustained over time and where the system's capacity for self-repair is maintained, such that goals for uses, values, and services of the ecosystem are met.

**endangered species**

An animal or plant species designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to receive federal protection status because the species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its natural range.

**environmental analysis**

A comprehensive evaluation of alternative actions and their predictable short- and long-term environmental effects, including physical, biological, economic, social, and environmental design factors and their interactions.

**environmental impact statement (EIS)**

A detailed statement of a given project's environmental consequences, including unavoidable adverse environmental effects, alternatives to the proposed action, the relationship between local short-term uses and long-term productivity, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

**environmental justice**

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

The federal agency with the primary responsibility for regulating the national environment. Takes a lead role in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process.

**essential fish habitat (EFH)**

Essential Fish Habitat means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity. EFH is defined by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265).

**exception (of a lease stipulation)**

A lease stipulation exception is a one-time exemption to a lease stipulation; exceptions are determined on a case-by-case basis.

**Executive Order (EO)**

A rule or order having the force of the law.

**existing trail**

A trail that is on the ground but has not been inventoried and evaluated by the managing agency to determine designation.

**- F -****fauna**

All animal life in a particular region.

**Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)**

A law passed in 1976 to establish public land policy, guidelines for its administration, and provide for the management, protection, development, and enhancement of the public lands.

**FLPMA 302 permits**

Section 302 of FLPMA provides for use, occupancy, and development of public lands with consideration for multiple use and sustained yield by requiring permits for utilization of public lands for habitation, cultivation, and the development of small trade or manufacturing concerns.

**federal mineral estate**

Land on which the federal government has ownership of minerals but the surface estate is private or other nonfederal ownership.

**Federal Register**

A daily publication that reports Presidential and federal agency documents.

**fire frequency**

A general term referring to the reoccurrence of fire in a given area over time. Also referred to as fire cycle.

**fire regime**

A description of the patterns of fire occurrences, frequency, size, severity, and sometimes vegetation and fire effects in a given area or ecosystem. A fire regime is a generalization based on fire histories at individual sites.

**fire return intervals**

The number of years between two successive fire events for a given area.

**fishery**

Habitat that supports the propagation and maintenance of fish.

**fjord**

Steep walled inlet of a sea created by glacial gouging.

**floodplains**

The lowland and relatively flat area adjoining inland waters, including, at a minimum, that area subject to a one percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year.

**flora**

A general term for vegetation or all plant life in a particular region.

**fluvial deposits**

Material placed by rivers, such as sands, gravels, or glacial materials.

**flysch**

Widespread occurrence of interbedded marine sandstone and shale deposits associated with continental margins.



**free use permit**

The free use application permit is used for various vegetative and mineral products applied to domestic purposes or by a non-profit agency (43 CFR 5500 and 43 CFR 3604).

**fuel**

Combustible material.

**fuel management**

The practice of altering combustible material on public lands, including vegetation, through mechanical, chemical, biological, or manual means, or by fire. The practice is intended to support of land management objectives, and to minimize the occurrence of future catastrophic wildfires or enhance future control of wildfires.

**fuel treatment**

Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g. lopping, chipping, crushing, piling and burning).

**fumaroles**

An opening in the earth's crust, spring, or geyser that emits steam and gases.

**- G -**

**Generally Allowed Uses**

The State of Alaska's uses and activities that are generally allowed on state land. All generally allowed uses are subject to conditions outlined in 11 AAC 96.005. See Appendix E for details.

**Geographic Information System (GIS)**

An information processing technology to input, store, manipulate, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information.

**- H -**

**hazardous materials**

Any substance that poses a threat to human health and/or the environment. Hazardous materials are typically toxic, corrosive, ignitable, explosive, or chemically reactive.]

**hydrocarbons**

A group of chemical compounds containing only hydrogen and carbon; these include petrol, diesel, gas, oil, and some solvents.

**- I -**

**integrated activity plan** (*implementation level plan*)

A detailed, site-specific plan for management of multiple resource programs that provides additional specificity needed to implement Resource Management Plan decisions.

**invasive species**

Organisms that have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. Executive Order 13112 focuses on organism whose presence is likely to cause economic harm, environmental harm, or harms to human health. See also *noxious weeds*.

- L -

**land area**

Includes dry land and land temporarily or partially covered by water, such as marshlands, swamps, and river floodplains; streams, sloughs, estuaries, and canals less than 1/8 of a statute mile in width; and lakes, reservoirs, and ponds having less than 40 acres of water-surface areas.

**landform**

A distinguishable feature on the surface of the earth, ranging from large-scale features such as plains and mountains to minor features such as hills and valleys.

**land status**

The legal standing of land within BLM boundaries. Land status includes private, military, state, state-selected, Native, Native-selected, and unencumbered public lands.

**land tenure**

The right to occupy and use a specified area of land. Refers to the relationship between the tenant and the owner.

**land use allocation**

The identification in a Resource Management Plan of the activities and foreseeable development that are allowed, restricted, or excluded for all or part of the planning area, based on desired future conditions.

**lease**

A means of allowing long-term use of land without transferring ownership of that land.

**leasable minerals**

Minerals subject to exploration and development under leases, permits, and licenses under various mineral-leasing acts. Leasable minerals include oil, gas, and coal. See also *locatable minerals* and *salable minerals*.

**lease stipulation** (*oil and gas lease*)

Lease stipulations are conditions of lease issuance that provide protection for other resource values or land uses by establishing authority for substantial delay or site changes, or the denial of operations within the terms of the lease contract. Lease stipulations clarify BLM's intent to protect known resources or resource values.

**lessee**

A person or entity holding record title in a lease issued by the United States (see 43 CFR 3160.0-5).

**limited**

Generally denotes that an area or roads and trails are available for a particular use or uses. See also *limited area*.

**limited area** (*in reference to OHV designations*)

Restrictions at certain times, in certain locations, and/or to certain vehicular uses. These restrictions may be of any type, but can generally be grouped into the following categories: number of vehicles; types of vehicles; time or season of vehicle use; permitted or licensed use only; use on existing road and trails; use on designated roads and trails; and other restrictions (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(g)).

**locatable minerals**

Minerals subject to appropriation under the mining laws and 43 CFR 3809. Locatable minerals include base metals (e.g. copper, lead, and zinc), noble metals (e.g. silver and gold), nickel, iron, platinum group elements, bentonite, gem and semiprecious gemstones, and nephrite jade. See also *leasable minerals* and *salable minerals*.

**lode deposit**

Mineral deposits within hard rock that can be found either near the surface of the earth or at depth.

**loess**

A wind deposited silt.

**- M -****management framework plan**

A planning decision document prepared before the effective date of the regulations implementing the land use planning provisions of FLPMA. The Management Framework Plan establishes, for a given area of land, land-use allocations, coordination guidelines for multiple-use, and objectives to be achieved for each class of land use or protection.

**management option**

A fire management suppression classification assigned by the land manager that designates the appropriate management response. The range of available management responses to wildland fires is outlined in the Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP). Responses range from full fire suppression to managing fires for resource benefits (fire use).

**memorandum of understanding (MOU)**

A formal, written agreement between organizations or agencies that presents the relationship between the entities for purposes of planning and management.

**microclimate**

Localized prevailing weather conditions, which may be different from the prevailing weather conditions in the general region.

**mine**

An opening or excavation in the earth for extracting minerals.

**mineral**

Organic and inorganic substances occurring naturally, with characteristics and economic uses that bring them within the purview of mineral laws; a substance that may be obtained under applicable laws from public lands by purchase, lease, or preemptive entry.

**mineral entry**

The filing of a claim on public land to obtain the right to any minerals it may contain.

**mineral materials**

The BLM authorizes disposal (transfer) of mineral materials such as gravel, sand, petrified wood, stone, cinders, pumice, pumicite, and clay to third parties on unimproved lands. Materials cannot be bartered or sold and must be used in connection with project construction or maintenance.

**mineral terrane**

A distinctive rock formation in which the rock assemblages have common origins, resulting in concentrations of certain minerals.

**mitigation measures**

Actions taken to reduce adverse impacts on resource values.

**model**

An analytical framework based on the past behavior of numeric variables that is able to predict the future behavior of those variables. 10 CFR Part 960.2 defines a model as “a conceptual description and the associated mathematical representation of a system, subsystem, component, or condition that is used to predict changes from a baseline state as a function of internal and/or external stimuli and as a function of time and space.”

**modification** *(of a lease stipulation)*

A lease stipulation modification is a change to the provisions of a lease stipulation either temporarily or for the term of the lease.

**moiety**

One of two basic subdivisions of a tribe.

**monitoring**

The process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated results of a management plan are being realized, or if implementation is proceeding as planned.

**morainal deposits**

Ridges, mounds, or irregular masses of material (such as boulders, gravel, and/or sand,) left on the earth’s surface from glacial activity.

**multiple-use**

A combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations for renewable and nonrenewable resources, including, but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, and fish and wildlife, along with natural scenic, scientific, and historic values.

- N -

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)**

An act mandating an environmental analysis and public disclosure of federal actions.

**National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS)**

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. The system consists of three types of streams: 1) recreation—rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad and that 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 of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely un-developed 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 shore-lines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

**National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)**

A law passed by Congress that requires federal agencies to review the effects of proposed projects or activities on properties that are eligible for listing or are listed in the National Register of Historic Places; federal agencies must confer with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Every BLM realty action must undergo a mandatory review by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, per Section 106 of the Act.

**native allotment**

An allocation of a parcel of public lands or Indian reservation lands to a Native for individual use; also the lands so allocated.

**Native Allotment Act 1906**

A law passed by Congress that authorized the allotment of up to 160 acres of non-mineral land to Indian or Eskimo people in Alaska.

**native-selected**

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 gave Alaska Natives an entitlement of 44 million acres to be selected from a pool of public lands specifically defined and withdrawn by the Act for that purpose. Some ANCSA corporations filed selections in excess of their entitlements. Similar to over selections by the state, some of the Native-selected lands will not be conveyed and will be retained in federal ownership. Native-selected lands constitute approximately 15 percent of the planning area and 35 percent of the BLM-managed lands.

**no action alternative**

The most likely condition expected to exist if current management practices continue unchanged. The analysis of this alternative is required for federal actions under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

**non-commercial recreational use**

Recreational use of the public lands and related waters for non-financial gain.

**non-motorized recreational opportunities**

Settings or conditions on public lands for activities for pleasure to occur that do not involve operation of motorized vehicles.

**no surface occupancy (NSO)**

A limitation of oil and gas leasing. It denotes that the area is open for mineral leasing but analysis has found that in order to protect other resource values, no well sites, tank batteries, or similar facilities are to occupy the surface of specified lands unless site-specific analysis shows that resource values can be protected.

**noxious weed**

A plant species designated by federal or state law as generally possessing one or more of the following characteristics: aggressive and difficult to manage; parasitic; a carrier or host of serious insects or disease; or non-native, new, or not common to the U.S. See also *invasive species*.

- O -

**objective**

A concise statement of a specific desired outcome for a resource. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable.

**occurrence potential**

An evaluation of the possibility that minerals would be present in an area.

**off-highway vehicle (OHV)**

Any motorized vehicle capable of, or designed for, travel on or immediately over land, water, or other natural terrain, excluding: 1) any non-amphibious registered motorboat; 2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle being used for emergency purposes; 3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the authorizing officer, or otherwise officially approved; 4) vehicles in official use; and 5) any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(a)).

**open**

Generally denotes that an area is available for a particular use or uses. See also *open area*.

**open area** (*in reference to OHV designations*)

Any area where all types of vehicle use is permitted at all times, anywhere in the area subject to the operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in subparts 8341 and 8342 of the Title 43 CFR (CFR 43 sec. 8340.05(f)).

**organic material**

Referring to or derived from living organisms; compounds containing carbon.

**outstandingly remarkable value (ORV)**

As defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, an “outstandingly remarkable value” is the characteristic of a river segment that is judged to be a rare, unique, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or natural scale. Values can be recreational, scenic, geological, historical, cultural, biological, botanical, ecological, heritage, hydrological, paleontological, scientific, or research-related.

- P -

**paleontological**

Of or relating to past geological periods. Paleontological resources include fossils of shellfish, swamp forests, dinosaurs, and other prehistoric plants and animals, including both vertebrates and invertebrates, and direct evidence of their presence (tracks, worm burrows, etc).

**paleontology**

The study of ancient plants and animals now known only from fossil remains.

**particulates**

Fine liquid or solid particles such as dust, smoke, mist, fumes or smog, found in the air or emissions.

**patent**

A government deed; a document that conveys legal title to public lands to the patentee. Public domain lands are patented; acquired lands are deeded by the government.

**permafrost**

Ground that has remained frozen for two or more years.

**permit**

A means of authorizing use of public lands in an equitable, safe, and enjoyable manner while minimizing adverse impacts and user conflicts. A permit does not transfer ownership of the land; it simply allows the permittee to use the land in a pre-determined fashion for a set amount of time.

**placer deposit**

Minerals that have eroded from the surface of lode deposits that have been washed into valleys or streams through rain runoff.

**planning area**

The region within which the BLM will make decisions during a planning effort. A planning area boundary includes all lands regardless of jurisdiction; however, the BLM will only make decisions on lands that fall under the BLM jurisdiction (including subsurface minerals).

**play**

When referring to oil and gas resources, play is defined as a specific combination of geological features with perceived potential for oil and gas accumulation.

**pollutant**

Any substance introduced into the environment that adversely affects the usefulness of resources or the health of humans, animals, or ecosystems.

**potential responsible parties**

A “potentially responsible party” under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) is any “person” who may be held liable for the costs of cleaning up hazardous substances released into the environment. A “person” can include an individual, corporation, partnership, municipality, or state or federal agency who is a:

- Current owner or operator – A person who currently owns the land or operates the facility where the hazardous substances are located (regardless of whether the activity has occurred during the current owner or operator's involvement at the site),
- Past owner or operator – A person who owned or operated the land or facility at the time hazardous substances were disposed of at the site (requires proof that disposal occurred during the person's ownership or operation),
- Generator – A person who “arranged for” the disposal or treatment of the hazardous substances at the site (commonly known as the “generator” of the hazardous substances), or
- Transporter – A person who transported the hazardous substances to the site.

**prehistory**

Any period in the past for which there is no contemporary written historical evidence. For the Copper River Basin, “prehistory” refers to any events occurring before 1850.

**prescribed fire**

A fire purposefully ignited to meet specific objectives. Prior to ignition, a written, approved fire plan must exist and legal requirements must be met.

**prime or unique farmland**

Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, fiber, forage, oilseed, and other agricultural crops with minimum inputs of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and labor, and without intolerable soil erosion, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for production of specific high-value food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, olives, or cranberries. It has the special combination of soil quality, location, growing season, and moisture supply needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of specific crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods.

**proliferation**

To spread or grow by rapid production of new parts, such as unmanaged growth of trails.

**pumice**

A porous or spongy form of volcanic glass rock.

**public land**

Land or interest in land owned by the U.S. and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the BLM without regard to how the U.S. acquired ownership, except land located on the Outer Continental Shelf, and land held for the benefit of Native Americans, Aleuts, and Eskimos.

**Public Land Order (PLO)**

Congressional orders defining withdrawals of public lands by statute or secretarial order from operation of some or all of the public land laws.

**PLO 5150**

Public Land Order defining withdrawals for utility and transportation corridors.

**PLO 6329**

Public Land Order resulting from an amendment to the 1980 Southcentral Management Framework Plan. This PLO modified existing ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals to allow for mineral entry, mineral leasing, and land disposals in some areas.

- R -

**Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act**

An act authorizing the sale or lease of public lands for recreational or public purposes to state and local governments and to qualified non-profit organizations.

**R&PP lease**

A lease issued by the federal government for use of public lands to serve community and recreational purposes on public lands by issuing leases for uses such as parks, cemetery, and landfills.

**record of decision (ROD)**

A public document associated with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that identifies all alternatives, provides the final decision, the rationale behind that decision, and commitments to monitoring and mitigation.

**recreation area management plan (RAMP)**

An activity level plan to develop more specific management guidelines for a special recreation management area.

**Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)**

A framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation environments, activities, and experience opportunities. The settings, activities, and opportunities for obtaining experiences are arranged along a continuum or spectrum divided into seven classes: Primitive (P), Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (SPNM), Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM), Roaded Natural (RN), Roaded Modified (RM), Rural (R), and Urban (U).

**reefoid**

Deposited by living organisms such as corals.

**renewable energy**

Energy derived from regenerative non-fossil fuel sources such as solar, wind, tidal, or geothermal.



**Required Operating Procedures (ROPs)**

Requirements, procedures, management practices, or design features that the BLM adopts as operational requirements. In the PRMP/FEIS, the ROPs would be common to all action alternatives. ROPs would apply to all permitted activities, including FLPMA leases and permits, Special Recreation Permits, oil and gas operations, mining Plans of Operation, and Right-of-Way authorizations. Obviously, not all ROPs would apply to all permitted activities. ROPs have been developed to ensure that objectives identified within the BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards are met when carrying out permitted activities and management practices.

**Research Natural Area (RNA)**

An area that is established and maintained for the primary purpose of research and education because the land has one or more of the following characteristics: 1) a typical representation of a common plant or animal association; 2) an unusual plant or animal association; 3) a threatened or endangered plant or animal species; 4) a typical representation of common geologic, soil, or water features; or 5) outstanding or unusual geologic, soil, or water features.

**Resource Advisory Council (RAC)**

A citizen body established by the Secretary of Interior, typically representing a wide spectrum of public interests, which provides advice and recommendations to the BLM concerning the use and management of public lands.

**Resource Management Plan (RMP)**

A field-level overall land use plan that addresses multiple resources in a particular administrative unit or geographic area. It typically establishes land use allocations, multiple-use guidelines, and management objectives for a given planning area. The PRMP/FEIS provides the basis for developing future site-specific activity planning on public land and the underlying subsurface estate. The RMP planning system has been used by BLM since 1980.

**right-of-way (ROW)**

The legal right to pass over another owner's land, or the area over which a right-of-way exists.

**riparian corridor**

Wetlands that are transitional between permanently saturated lowlands and drier upland sites. Riparian habitat is characterized by hydrophytic vegetation (plants that often grow in water or wet soils) that grows in nonhydric (moist but not wet) soils.

**R.S. 2477**

A provision originally part of the 1866 Mining Act that states in its entirety, "The right-of-way for the construction of highways over public lands, not reserved for public uses, is hereby granted." In 1873, the provision was separated from the Mining Act and reenacted as Revised Statute (R.S.) 2477. In 1938, it was recodified as 43 U.S.C. Section 932. FLPMA repealed both the 1866 Mining Act and R.S. 2477, but all rights-of-way that existed on the date of the repeal (October 21, 1976) were preserved under 43 U.S.C. Section 1769. The State of Alaska recognizes approximately 650 R.S. 2477 routes throughout the state. The assertion of these routes has not been recognized and current BLM policy is to defer any processing of R.S. 2477 assertions except where there is a demonstrated and compelling need to make a determination.

- S -

**sales**

The transfer of public lands or resources to other entities in exchange for monetary compensation.

**salable minerals**

Sand, gravel, stone, soil, and other common-variety mineral materials disposed of through sales at not less than their appraised price or through free-use permits. See also *leasable minerals* and *locatable minerals*.

**scoping**

The process used to determine, through public involvement, the range of issues that the planning process should address.

**Secretary**

The Secretary of the United States Department of Interior.

**sedimentation**

The removal, transport, and deposition of sediment particles by wind or water.

**sensitive status species**

Those wildlife, fish, or plant species designated by the BLM Alaska State Director, usually in cooperation with the state agency responsible for managing the species, as sensitive. They are: 1) species under status review by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service; 2) species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that federal listing may be necessary; 3) species with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or 4) species inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats.

**seral**

Relating to ecological communities where all successional stages of biotic development are represented.

**soil erosion**

The wearing away of the soil by running water, wind, ice, or other geological processes.

**Special Management Area (SMA)**

A broad category that includes several distinct programs, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or National Historic Trails. These areas contain resources or opportunities that warrant discrete management strategies.

**Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)**

Areas where the management emphasis is on recreation, though other resource uses and development are allowed.

**special recreation permit**

A means of authorizing recreational uses of public lands and waters. Special recreation permits are issued for specific recreational uses as a means to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and provide a mechanism to accommodate commercial recreational uses. There are four types of permits: commercial, competitive, organized groups/events, and individuals or groups in special areas.

**special status species**

Special status species include the following: endangered species, threatened species, proposed species, candidate species, state-listed species, and BLM sensitive species.

**species**

In this PRMP/FEIS, the term refers to any species or subspecies of fish or wildlife or plants (and in the case of plants, any varieties), and any distinct population segment of any species of vertebrate fish or wildlife, which interbreeds when mature.

**standard lease terms (SLT)**

Denotes that no special stipulations are applied to a lease. Current environmental protection laws and the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act orders provide the direction for the oil and gas operation.

**State office**

The first level administrative unit of the BLM field organization. It comprises a geographic area consisting of one or more states.

**State-selected**

These are formerly unappropriated and unreserved public lands that were selected by the State of Alaska as part of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958 and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. Until conveyance, state-selected lands outside of National Park system lands or National Wildlife Refuges will continue to be managed by the BLM. ANILCA allowed for over-selection by the state by up to 25 percent of the entitlement (sec. 906 (f)). Therefore, some state-selected lands will eventually be retained in long-term federal ownership. State-selected lands constitute approximately 12 percent of the planning area and 28 percent of BLM-managed land.

**stipulations**

Stipulations are specific to oil and gas exploration, development, and production. They constitute restrictions on the conduct of operations under a lease. AS part of a lease contract, lease stipulations are specific to the lessee. All oil and gas activity permits subsequently issued to a lessee will comply with the lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review (see Appendix D).

**subduction**

The geologic process where one huge plate of the earth's crust descends beneath another plate.

**submerged lands**

Land covered by tidal water between the line of mean lower low water and seaward to a distance of three geographical miles.

**subsistence/subsistence use**

Relying on fish, wildlife and other wild resources for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, handicrafts, and trade. An Alaskan resident living in a rural area may participate in federal subsistence hunting on certain unencumbered BLM lands.

**subsurface estate**

The interest or ownership in the land below the surface of the earth, and everything of value therein.

**succession**

The replacement in time of one plant community with another. The prior plant community (or successional stage) creates conditions that are favorable for the establishment of the next community.

**suppression**

All actions related to extinguishing or confining a fire, beginning with its discovery.

**sustained-yield**

According to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land.

**synergistic**

A total effect that is greater than the sum of the effects taken independently.

- T -

**threatened species**

A designation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service when a plant or animal species is likely to become endangered throughout all or a specific portion of its range within the foreseeable future.

**trespass**

An unauthorized use of federal lands and/or resources.

**tsunami**

An ocean wave resulting from an earthquake, landslide, or volcanic eruption. Tsunamis may create enormous wavelengths, have sufficient energy to travel across entire oceans, and cause extreme devastation upon landfall.

**tundra**

Undulating treeless plains characteristic of northern arctic regions in both hemispheres. It consists of black mucky soil with permanently frozen subsoil, but supports a dense growth of mosses and lichens, and dwarf herbs and shrubs that often develop showy-flowers.

**turbidity**

The opaque or dark color in water due to fine suspended sediment, algal growth, or dissolved chemicals.

- U -

**unencumbered** (*with reference to BLM lands*)

Public lands that have not been selected by the state or Native organizations. These are the lands that will be retained in long-term federal ownership.

- V -

**viewshed**

A region or area that can be seen from a particular location.

**Visual Resource Management (VRM)**

A means of managing visual resources by designating areas as one of four classes: Class I: maintaining a landscape setting that appears unaltered by humans; Class II: designing proposed alterations so as to retain the existing character of the landscape; Class III: designing proposed alterations so as to partially retain the existing character of the landscape; and Class IV: providing for management activities which require major modifications of the existing character of the landscape.

- W -

**watershed**

An area from which water drains to a particular body of water. Watersheds range in size from a few acres to large areas of the country.

**waiver** (*of a lease stipulation*)

A lease stipulation waiver is a permanent exemption to a lease stipulation.

**wetlands**

Permanently wet or intermittently flooded areas where the water table (fresh, alkaline, or brackish) is at, near, or above the soil surface for extended intervals, where hydric wet soil conditions are normally exhibited, and where water depths generally do not exceed 2 meters (about 6.5 feet). Marshes, shallows, swamps, muskegs, lake bogs, and wet meadows are examples of wetlands.

**Wild and Scenic River (WSR)**

A river that is part of the National Wild and Scenic River System. In Alaska, most Wild and Scenic Rivers were designated through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). See also *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*.

**wildfire**

An unplanned, unwanted wildland fire, including unauthorized human-caused fires, escaped wildland fire use events, escaped prescribed fire projects, and all other wildland fires where the objective is to put out the fire.

**wildland fire**

Any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland. Three distinct types of wildland fire have been defined and include wildfire, wildland fire use, and prescribed fire.

**Wildland Fire and Fuels Management Program**

Supports identified land use and resource management objectives and wildland fire is used to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and, as nearly as possible, function in its natural ecological role.

**wildland fire implementation plan (WFIP)**

A progressively developed assessment and operational management plan that documents the analysis and describes the appropriate management response for a wildland fire use event.

**wildland fire situation analysis (WFSa)**

A decision making process that evaluates alternative wildfire suppression strategies against selected environmental, social, political, and economic criteria and provides a record of those decisions.

**wildland fire use**

The application of the appropriate management response to naturally-ignited wildland fires to accomplish specific resource management objectives in pre-defined designated areas outlined in Fire Management Plans. Operational management is described in the Wildland Fire Implementation Plan (WFIP).

**wildland urban interface**

The line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels.

**withdrawal**

Federal land set aside and dedicated to a present, governmental use; public land set aside for some other public purpose, e.g., pending a determination of how the land is to be used; an action approved by the Secretary or a law enacted by Congress that closes land to specific uses under the public land laws (usually sale, settlement, location, and entry), or limits use to maintain public values or reserves area for particular public use or program, or that transfers jurisdiction of an area to another federal agency.

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