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GLOSSARY

Abandonment—The termination of oil and gas production operations, removal of facilities, plugging of the well bore, and reclamation of surface disturbances.

Action alternative—An alternative that would involve a change from existing conditions, including changes to established trends or management direction.

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation(**ACHP**)—The ACHP is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources, and advises the President and Congress on national historic preservation policy.

Affected environment—Term used in the National Environmental Policy Act to denote surface or subsurface resources (including social and economic elements) within or adjacent to a geographic area that could potentially be affected by a proposed action; the environment of the area to be affected or created by the alternatives under consideration. (40 CFR § 1502.15).

Alternative—Combination of management prescriptions applied in specific amounts and locations to achieve desired management goals and objectives.

Annular space—The space surrounding one cylindrical object placed inside another, such as the space surrounding a tubular object placed in a wellbore.

Aquifer—A water-bearing rock, rock formation, or group of formations. Aquifers can be either unconfined or confined.

Arches—Natural geologic features which bear the properties of an archway, formed through erosion over an extended period of time. Natural arches are particularly sensitive to surface disturbances such as seismic activity which could compromise their strength.

Base floodplain—100-year floodplain.

Best management practices (BMPs)—BMPs are state-of-the-art mitigation measures applied to oil and natural gas drilling and production to help ensure that energy development and operations are conducted in an environmentally responsible manner. BMPs can be simple, such as choosing a paint color that helps oil and gas equipment blend in with the natural surroundings, while others involve cutting-edge monitoring and production technologies.

Biodiversity—The degree of variation of life forms within a given ecosystem, biome, or on an entire planet.

Blowout—An uncontrolled explosion of gas, oil, or other fluids from a drilling well. A blowout occurs when formation pressure exceeds the pressure applied to it by the column of drilling fluid and when blowout prevention equipment is absent or fails.

Blowout preventer (BOP)—One of several valves installed at the wellhead to prevent the escape of pressure either in the annular space between the casing and drill pipe or in open hole (i.e., hole with no drill pipe) during drilling or completion operations.

Bottomhole—The deepest portion of an oil well.

Brine—Water containing relatively large concentrations of dissolved salts, particularly sodium chloride. Brine has higher salt concentrations than ocean water.

Cement plug—A balanced plug of cement slurry placed in the wellbore. Cement plugs are used for a variety of applications including hydraulic isolation, provision of a secure platform, and in window-milling operations for sidetracking a new wellbore.

Chimneys—Natural geologic features which bear the properties of a chimney, formed through erosion over an extended period of time. Chimneys are particularly sensitive to surface disturbances such as seismic activity which could compromise their balance.

Christmas tree—The control valves, pressure gauges, and chokes assembled at the top of a well to control the flow of gas after the well has been completed.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)—A publication that codifies the general and permanent rules and regulations published in the Federal Register by the Executive Branch departments and agencies of the federal government, and which carry the force of law.

Completion—The activities and methods to prepare a well for production. Includes installation of equipment for production from an oil or gas well.

Conditions of approval (COAs)—Provisions or requirements under which a plan of operations is approved.

Containerized mud system—A fully containerized, closed-loop drilling fluid system that holds water, drilling mud and well cuttings. Inside a National Park Service unit, an operator must use a closed loop containerized mud system in place of an earthen reserve pit system.

Contaminating substance—Those substances, including but not limited to, saltwater or any other injurious or toxic chemical; waste oil or waste emulsified oil; basic sediment; mud with injurious or toxic substances produced or used in the drilling, development, production, transportation, or on-site storage, refining, and processing of oil and gas.

Critical habitat—The specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed in accordance with the provisions of Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, on which are found those physical or biological features essential to the conservation of the species and which may require special management considerations or protection; and specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species at the time it is listed...upon a determination by the Secretary that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species.

Cultural landscape—A geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife and domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Cultural resource—Cultural resources include archeological sites; historic sites, buildings, and districts; cultural landscapes; and ethnographic resources.

Current Legal and Policy Requirements (CLPRs)—The current laws, regulations, orders, policies, directives, etc. that provide the legal restrictions and requirements that must be followed.

Deed—A conveyance of realty; a writing signed by a grantor, whereby title to realty is transferred from one to another.

Deed restrictions—Restrictions on deeded land that place limitations on the use of the property. Restrictive covenants are an example of deed restrictions. Deed restrictions are usually initiated by the developers - those who determined the purposed use of the land. Deed restrictions come with the property and usually cannot be changed or removed by subsequent owners.

Deferred property – Fee-simple private properties located within the legislative boundary of Big South Fork NRRA.

Designation of operator—Appointment or assignment denoting person or entity responsible for an oil and gas operation.

Director—The Director of the National Park Service.

Directional drilling—Intentional deviation of a wellbore from the vertical (90 degrees). Although wellbores are normally drilled vertically, it is sometimes necessary or advantageous to drill at an angle from the vertical to avoid surface resources.

Drilling fluid ("mud")—Circulating fluid, one function of which is to lift cuttings out of the wellbore and to the surface. While a mixture of clay, water, and other chemical additives is the most common drilling fluid, wells can also be drilled using oil-based muds, air, or water as the drilling fluid.

Dry hole—Any well incapable of producing oil or gas in commercial quantities. A dry hole may produce water, gas, or even oil, but not enough to justify production.

Effects—See "impacts."

Endangered species—Any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Environmental assessment (EA)—A concise public document prepared to provide sufficient evidence and analysis for determining whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact. An EA includes a brief discussion of the need for a proposal, the alternatives considered, the environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives, and a list of agencies and individuals consulted.

Environmental impact statement (EIS)—A document prepared to analyze the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or action and released to the public for comment and review. EISs are prepared when there is the potential for major impacts on natural, cultural or socioeconomic resources. An EIS must meet the requirements of National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

Executive orders, memoranda, or proclamations—Regulations having the force of law issued by the President of the United States to the Executive branch of the federal government.

Federal Register—Daily publication of the National Archives and Records Administration that updates the Code of Federal Regulations, in which the public may review the regulations and legal notices issued by federal agencies.

Federally owned and controlled lands—Land that the United States possesses fee title through purchase, donation, public domain, or condemnation. It also includes land that the United States holds any interest, such as a lease, easement, rights-of-way, or cooperative agreement.

Federally owned and controlled waters—All surface waters in the boundaries of a National Park System unit without regard to whether the title to the submerged lands lies with the United States or another party.

Floodplain—The lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters including floodprone areas of offshore islands, and including at a minimum, that area subject to temporary inundation by a regulatory flood.

Flowlines and gathering lines—Lines or pipelines that transport produced fluids (e.g., oil, gas, brine) from the wellhead to storage, treatment or transportation facilities.

Gas—Any fluid, either combustible or noncombustible, which is produced in a natural state from the earth, and which maintains a gaseous or rarefied state at ordinary temperature and pressures (36 CFR § 9.31(m)).

Geophysical exploration—Geophysical exploration consists primarily of seismic operations and typically involves selective cutting of vegetation along source and receiver lines as needed, use of shotholes/explosives or seismic vibrators as a source of vibration, and recording the data generated from the soundwaves generated in the ground by the source.

Hydrocarbons—Organic compounds consisting of hydrogen and carbon, such as petroleum, crude oil or natural gas, whose densities, boiling points, and freezing points increase as their molecular weights increase. The smallest molecules of hydrocarbons are gaseous; the largest are solids. Petroleum is a mixture of many different hydrocarbons.

Impacts—The likely effects of an action upon specific natural, cultural, or socioeconomic resources. Impacts may be beneficial, or adverse and direct, indirect, and / or cumulative.

Impairment (NPS Policy)—As used in NPS Management Policies, "impairment" means an adverse impact on one or more park resources or values that interferes with the integrity of the park's resources or values, or the opportunities that otherwise would exist for the enjoyment of them, by the present or a future generation. Impairment may occur from visitor activities, NPS activities in managing a park, or activities undertaken by concessioners, contractors, and others operating in a park. As used here, the impairment of park resources and values has the same meaning as the phrase "derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established," as used in the General Authorities Act.

Impairment (Clean Water Act)—As used in conjunction with the Clean Water Act and associated state water quality programs, a water body is "impaired" if it does not meet one or more of the water quality standards established for it. This places the water body on the "impaired waters list", also known as the "303(d) list" for those pollutants that exceed the water quality standard.

Lease—A legal document executed between a landowner, as lessor, and a company or individual, as lessee, that grants the right to develop the premises for minerals or other products.

Lessor—One who leases real property. Typically, in park units the lessor is the mineral owner.

Management policies—The National Park Service Management Policies set the basic servicewide policy of the National Park Service. They provide the overall foundation, set the framework, and provide direction for management decisions within the National Park Service. The management of the National Park System and National Park Service programs is guided by the U.S. Constitution, public laws, proclamations, executive orders, rules and regulations, and directives of the Secretary of the Interior and the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks. Other laws, regulations, and policies related to the administration of federal programs, although not cited, may also apply.

Microhabitat—An extremely localized, small-scale environment, as a cliff ledge or rock overhang.

Mitigation—"Mitigation" as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (40 CFR § 1508.20), includes: avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action; minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its Implementation; rectifying the impact of repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

National park system—The total sum of the land and water now and hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes.

Natural floodplain values—Attributes of floodplains which contribute to ecosystem quality, including soils, vegetation, wildlife habitat, dissipation of flood energy, sedimentation processes, ground water (including riparian ground water) recharge, etc.

Natural gas—Highly compressible, highly expandable mixture of hydrocarbons having a low specific gravity and occurring naturally in a gaseous form. Besides hydrocarbon gases, natural gas may contain appreciable quantities of nitrogen, helium, carbon dioxide, and contaminants.

No-action alternative—An alternative that maintains established trends or management direction. For an oil and gas operation, it typically means that the action as proposed would not occur or current management would continue.

No surface use stipulation—Access across the surface or use of the surface for nonfederal oil and gas operations would be limited or not permitted in areas with this stipulation, unless otherwise authorized in an approved plan of operations.

Nonfederal oil and gas rights—Rights to oil and gas not owned by the United states where access is on, across, or through federally owned or controlled lands or waters.

Oil—Any viscous, combustible liquid hydrocarbon or solid hydrocarbon substance easily liquefiable on warming, which occurs naturally in the earth, including drip gasoline or other natural condensates recovered from gas without resort to manufacturing processes.

Operations (oil and gas)—"All functions, work and activities within a unit in connection with exploration for and development of oil and gas resources." (36 CFR § 9.31(c)). Operations include, but are not limited to: reconnaissance to gather natural and cultural resources information; line-of-sight surveying and staking; geophysical exploration; exploratory drilling; production, gathering, storage, processing, and transport of petroleum products; inspection, monitoring, and maintenance of equipment; well "work-over" activity; construction, maintenance, and use of pipelines; well plugging and

abandonment; reclamation of the surface; and construction or use of roads, or other means of access or transportation, on, across, or through federally owned or controlled lands or waters.

Operator—Person(s) who may have rights to explore and develop non-federally-owned oil and gas in National Park Service units, including: owners: individuals, corporations, local and state governments, and Indian tribes (when the tribe owns the oil and gas in fee); lessees, such as individuals or corporations that lease oil and gas from the owner; and contractors, which are individuals or corporations under contract with the owner, lessee, or operator.

Organic Act—The law that established the National Park Service in 1916.

Permeability—The capacity to transmit fluids or gases through soil or rock materials; the degree of permeability depends upon the size and shape of the pore spaces and interconnections, and the extent of the interconnections.

Physiographic province—A geographic region with a specific geomorphology and often specific subsurface rock type or structural elements.

Plan of operations—Information submitted by an operator describing how proposed oil and gas operations would be conducted in a unit of the National Park System pursuant to the National Park Service's Nonfederal Oil and Gas Rights Regulations, 36 CFR 9B, and containing information requirements pertinent to the type of operations being proposed (36 CFR § 9.36(a) through (d)).

Play—An area in which hydrocarbon accumulations or prospects of a given type occur.

Plugging—Permanent closing of a well by removing the completion equipment; pumping cement across producing zones, placing cement plugs at various depths to protect freshwater zones, setting a plug at the surface to cap the well, and removing wellhead equipment.

Practicable—Capable of being done within existing constraints. The test of what is practicable depends upon the situation and includes consideration of the pertinent factors such as environment, cost, or technology.

Production—Phase of mineral extraction where minerals are made available for treatment and use.

Programmatic—Following a plan, policy, or program.

Public law—A law or statute of the United States.

Reasonably foreseeable development (RFD)—An estimate of the undiscovered hydrocarbon resources in an area and a projection of the type and extent of new operations that could occur to develop these resources.

Reclamation—The process of returning disturbed land to a condition that will be approximately equivalent to the pre-disturbance condition terms of sustained support of functional physical processes, biological productivity, biological organisms, and land uses.

Recovery plan—Plan required for each listed threatened/endangered species and generated by a task force under the leadership of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The plan describes the specific management actions necessary to restore the threatened or endangered species to recovery status,

including the estimated cost and time involved. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service coordinator oversees implementation of the plan.

Regional Director—Chief decision-maker in each of the seven regions of the National Park Service.

Regulations—Rules or orders prescribed by federal agencies to regulate conduct, and published in the CFR.

Regulatory floodplain—Specific floodplain which is subject to regulation by Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management," and the National Park Service's Floodplain Management Guideline (#93-4). For Class I Actions, the Base Floodplain (100-year) is the regulatory floodplain; for Class II Actions, the 500-year return period floodplain is the regulatory floodplain; for Class III Actions, the Extreme floodplain is the regulatory floodplain.

Revegetation—Reestablishment and development of self-sustaining plant cover. On disturbed sites, this normally requires human assistance, such as seedbed preparation, reseeding, and mulching.

Scoping—Scoping is done during the initial phase of project planning to seek input from a variety of sources. This input is used to identify issues, areas requiring additional study, alternative methods and locations, and topics to be analyzed in the National Environmental Policy Act document. Scoping is done internally with National Park Service staff and externally with the interested public, other agencies, and stakeholders.

Section 106—Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The historic preservation review process mandated by Section 106 is outlined in regulations issued by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Seismic surveying (see geophysical exploration)—Reflection seismology (or seismic reflection) is a method of exploration geophysics that uses the principles of seismology to estimate the properties of the Earth's subsurface from reflected seismic waves. The method requires a controlled seismic source of energy, such as dynamite/Tovex, a specialized air gun or a seismic vibrator. By noting the time it takes for a reflection to arrive at a receiver, it is possible to estimate the depth of the feature that generated the reflection.

Setback—A designated distance which is established to protect a sensitive feature or artifact from disturbance.

Shut-in well—An oil and gas well in which the inlet and outlet valves have been shut off so that it is capable of production but is temporarily not producing.

Split estate—Situation where the mineral estate is owned or controlled by a different party than the owner of the land surface in the same area.

Taking—In the United States, according to the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution, taking of private real or personal property for public use by the government.

Threatened species—Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Unit agreement—An agreement combining leased tracts on a fieldwide or reservoir wide scale so that many tracts may be treated as one to facilitate operations such as enhanced recovery projects.

United States Code (USC)—The systematic collection of the existing laws of the United States, organized under 50 separate titles. The citation 16 USC refers to section 1 of title 16.

Vertical drilling—Drilling of a well vertically (90 degrees) to reach a target zone straight underneath the surface location.

Viewshed—An area of land, water, or other environmental element that is visible to the human eye from a fixed vantage point.

Well—A producing well with oil as its primary commercial product. Oil wells almost always produce some gas and frequently produce water. Most oil wells eventually produce mostly gas or water.

Wellbore—The wellbore itself, including the openhole or uncased portion of the well.

Well types at Big South Fork NRRA—

- Unknown: wells for which the NPS does not have sufficient information to verify the location or status
- Actively producing wells: wells that are mechanically capable of being produced and have documented production in the past 12 months
- Inactive wells: wells that have no documented production in the past 12 months
- Plugged and abandoned wells: wells that have been permanently closed by placement of cement plugs
- Orphaned wells: wells that do not have a responsible party

Wetlands—Lands that are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: 1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes; 2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and 3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year. (Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States by Cowardin et al. 1979).

Wild and Scenic River—A river designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542; 16 USC. 1271 et seq.) as having outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Rivers may be designated by Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretary of the Interior. Each river is administered by either a federal or state agency. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries.

Windows—Natural geologic features which bear the properties of a hole through rock resembling a window, formed through erosion over an extended period of time. Windows are particularly sensitive to surface disturbances such as seismic activity which could compromise their natural form.

Workover—Work performed on an existing well to improve, maintain, or restore a well's production. A workover is done using a truck-mounted rig and typically lasts one to several weeks.

Workover rig—Specific motorized equipment required to perform a workover operation.

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