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GLOSSARY

action—Any federal activity including, but not limited to, acquiring, managing, and disposing of federal lands and facilities; facilitating human occupation or visitation; providing federally undertaken, financed, or assisted construction and improvements; and conducting federal activities and programs affecting land use, including, but not limited to, water and related land resources planning, and regulating and licensing activities.

action alternative—An alternative that proposes a different management action or actions to address the purpose, need, and objectives of the plan; one that proposes changes to the current management. Alternatives B, C, and D are the action alternatives in this planning process. See also *no-action alternative*.

adult—An organism that is fully grown or developed and capable of sexual reproduction.

affected environment—Existing natural, cultural, and social conditions of an area that are subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as a result of a proposed human action.

alternatives—Sets of management elements that represent a range of options for how or whether to proceed with a proposed action. An environmental assessment or environmental impact statement analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the range of alternatives, as required under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

appropriate use—A use that is suitable, proper, or fitting for a particular park, or to a particular location within a park.

archeological resource—Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. An archeological resource is capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

anthropogenic—Resulting from the influence or actions of human beings.

A-weighted decibel (dBA)—A unit of measure for relative sound intensity as experienced by the human ear. See also *decibel (dB)*.

code—A grouping public comments centered on a common subject. The codes were developed during the scoping process and were used to track major subjects.

comment—A comment is a portion of the text within a correspondence that addresses a single subject. It could include such information as an expression of support or opposition to the use of a potential management tool, additional data regarding the existing condition, or an opinion debating the adequacy of an analysis.

compaction—The process by which a sediment progressively loses its porosity due to the effects of loading. This forms part of the process of lithification. When a layer of sediment is originally deposited, it contains an open framework of particles, with the pore space usually being filled with water. As more sediment is deposited above the layer, the effect of the increased loading is to increase the particle-to-particle stresses, resulting in porosity reduction primarily through a more efficient packing of the particles and to a lesser extent through elastic compression and pressure solution.

compendium—See *Superintendent's Compendium*.

concern—Concerns are statements that summarize the issues identified by each code. Each code was further characterized by concern statements to provide a better focus on the content of comments. Some codes required multiple concern statements, while others did not.

conserve—To protect from loss or harm; preserve. Historically, the terms conserve, protect, and preserve have come collectively to embody the fundamental purpose of the NPS—preserving, protecting and conserving the national park system.

correspondence—A piece of correspondence is the entire document received from a commenter. It can be in the form of a letter, email, written comment form, note card, open house transcript, open house flip chart or petition.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)—Established by Congress within the Executive Office of the President with the passage of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. The CEQ coordinates federal environmental efforts and works closely with agencies and other White House offices in the development of environmental policies and initiatives.

cumulative effect or impact—The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (federal or nonfederal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.6).

decibel (dB)—A unit of measure of sound intensity.

ecology—The pattern of relations between organisms and their environment.

ecosystem—A natural unit consisting of all plants, animals, and micro-organisms (biotic factors) in an area functioning together with all of the physical (abiotic) factors of the environment, considered as a unit. Ecosystems can be permanent or temporary. An ecosystem is a unit of interdependent organisms that share the same habitat. Ecosystems usually form a number of food webs.

enabling legislation—National Park Service (NPS) legislation setting forth the legal parameters by which each park may operate.

endangered species—“Any species (including subspecies or qualifying distinct population segment) that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range (ESA Section 3(6)).” The lead federal agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), for the listing of a species as endangered is responsible for reviewing the status of the species on a five-year basis.

Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 USC 1531 et seq.)—An act to provide a means whereby the ecosystems on which endangered species and threatened species depend may be conserved and to provide a program for the conservation of such endangered and threatened species.

environment—The sum total of all biological, chemical, and physical factors to which organisms are exposed; the surroundings of a plant or animal.

environmental assessment (EA)—An environmental analysis prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act to determine whether a federal action would significantly affect the environment and thus require a more detailed environmental impact statement (EIS).

environmental consequences—The environmental effects of project alternatives, including the proposed action, any adverse environmental effects which cannot be avoided, the relationship between short-term uses of the human environment, and any irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources that would be involved if the proposal should be implemented (40 CFR 1502.16).

environmental impact statement (EIS)—A detailed NEPA analysis document that is prepared, with extensive public involvement, when a proposed action or alternatives have the potential for significant impact on the human environment. An EIS must meet the requirements of NEPA, CEQ, and the directives of the agency responsible for the proposed project or action.

erosion—Removal of surface material from the earth's crust, primarily soil and rock debris, and the transportation of the eroded materials by natural agencies from the point of removal.

executive order—An official proclamation issued by the president that may set forth policy or direction or establish specific duties for federal agencies in connection with the execution of federal laws and programs.

fauna—All the animal life of any particular region or time.

Federal Register—Published by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, the Federal Register is the official daily publication for rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as executive orders and other presidential documents (<http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/>).

federally listed endangered species—An endangered species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Before a species can receive protection under the ESA, it must first be placed on the federal list of endangered species. All actions leading up to and including the listing of a species as endangered are published in the Federal Register (USFWS Endangered Species Program).

habitat—The environment in which a plant or animal lives (includes vegetation, soil, water, and other factors).

herbaceous—Characteristic of a non-woody herb or plant part

invasive species—Nonnative species that disrupt and replace native species.

migratory—Moving from one spatial unit to another periodically, usually for feeding or breeding purposes.

mitigation—Defined in NPS Director's Order 12 as a modification of the proposal or alternative that lessens the intensity of its impact on a particular resource. The definition references 40 CFR 1508.20, which states that mitigation can include

1. Avoiding the impact altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action.
2. Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation.

3. Rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment.
4. Reducing or eliminating the impact over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
5. Compensating for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

monitoring—A process of collecting information to evaluate if an objective and/or anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized (effectiveness monitoring) or whether implementation is proceeding as planned (implementation monitoring).

National Register of Historic Places (National Register)—A register of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects important in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture, maintained by the Secretary of the Interior under authority of Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 and Section 101(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.

NEPA process—The objective analysis of a proposed action to determine the degree of its impact on the natural, physical, and human environment; alternatives and mitigation that reduce that impact; and the full and candid presentation of the analysis to, and involvement of, the interested and affected public – as required of federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

no-action alternative—The alternative in which baseline conditions and trends are projected into the future without any substantive changes in management (40 CFR 1502.14(d)). Alternative A is the no-action alternative in this planning process.

nonnative species—Any introduced plant, animal, or protist (tiny life forms that are neither plant nor animal) species that is not native to the area and may be considered a nuisance.

off-road vehicle (ORV)—Any motorized vehicle designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain, with the following exclusions: this term excludes (a) any registered motorboat; and (b) any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for emergency purposes, and any combat or combat support vehicle when used for national defense purposes.

Organic Act (NPS)—The 1916 law (and subsequent amendments) that created the National Park Service (NPS) and assigned it the responsibility of managing the national parks.

ORV route—A designated location, typically linear in nature (e.g., from point A to point B), where ORV travel may be authorized by the superintendent, but which may be temporarily closed to ORV use to protect park resources, provide for visitor safety, or prevent user conflicts.

park—Any one of the hundreds of areas of land and water administered as part of the national park system. The term is used interchangeably in this document with “unit,” “park unit,” and “park area.”

planning—An interdisciplinary process for developing short- and long-term goals and alternatives for visitor experience, resource conditions, projects, facility type and placement, and other proposed actions.

pollutants—Contaminants introduced into an environment that cause instability, disorder, harm, or discomfort to the ecosystem (i.e., physical systems or living organisms). Pollution can take the form of chemical substances or energy, such as noise, heat, or light. Contaminants, the elements of pollution, can be foreign or naturally occurring substances or energies; when naturally occurring, they are considered pollutants when they exceed natural levels.

population (or species population)—A group of individual plants or animals that have common characteristics and interbreed among themselves and not with other similar groups.

preferred alternative—The alternative in an environmental assessment or EIS that the agency believes would best fulfill the purpose of and need for action.

preserve—To protect from loss or harm; *conserve*. Historically, the terms preserve, protect and conserve have come collectively to embody the fundamental purpose of the NPS—preserving, protecting and conserving the national park system.

riparian—Of, relating to, or located on the banks of a natural watercourse (as a river or stream), or sometimes of a lake or a tidewater.

route—See *ORV route*.

scoping—An early and open process for determining the extent and variety of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action (40 CFR 1501.7).

sediment—Any particulate matter that can be transported by flow and that eventually is deposited. Sediments are most often transported by water (fluvial), wind (eolian), and glaciers (glacial). Beach sands and river channel deposits are examples of fluvial transport and deposition, although sediment also often settles out of slow-moving or standing water in lakes and oceans.

soundscape (natural)—The aggregate of all the natural, nonhuman-caused sounds that occur in parks, together with the physical capacity for transmitting natural sounds.

substrate—The earthy material that exists in the bottom of a marine habitat, like dirt, rocks, sand, or gravel.

superintendent—The senior on-site NPS official in a park. Used interchangeably with “park superintendent,” “park manager,” or “unit manager.”

Superintendent’s Compendium—A document, updated yearly, that provides a list of the special designations, closures, public use limits, permit requirements, and other restrictions under the discretionary authority of the superintendent in a park unit, as provided for in 36 CFR 1.7(b).

threatened or endangered species—Plants or animals that receive special protection under federal or state laws, including the Endangered Species Act. Species may be listed as threatened or endangered in the state, but not by the federal government (USFWS), or vice versa. Some USFWS regional offices also maintain a list of those species of special concern, either nationally or locally, which may be being or may have been previously considered for listing as threatened or endangered.

unacceptable impacts—Impacts that, individually or cumulatively, would

- Be inconsistent with a park’s purposes or values, or impede the attainment of a park’s desired future conditions for natural and cultural resources as identified through the park’s planning process.
- Create an unsafe or unhealthful environment for visitors or employees.
- Diminish opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy, learn about, or be inspired by park resources or values.

- Unreasonably interfere with
 - Park programs or activities.
 - An appropriate use.
 - The atmosphere of peace and tranquility, or the natural soundscape maintained in wilderness and natural, historic, or commemorative locations in the park.
 - NPS concessioner or contractor operations or services.

visitor—Anyone who physically visits a park for recreational, educational, or scientific purposes, or who otherwise uses a park’s interpretive and educational services, regardless of where such use occurs (e.g., through Internet access or at a library).

visitor experience—The perceptions, feelings, and reactions a park visitor has in relationship with the surrounding environment.

visitor use—The types of recreation activities engaged in by visitors, including the type of activity, visitor behavior, timing, and distribution of use.

winch—A stationary motor-driven or hand-powered machine used for hoisting or hauling, having a drum around which is wound a rope or chain attached to the load being moved (e.g., off-road vehicle). In the context of this planning process, a winch point is a location in the recreation area where a winch is set up to assist vehicles that may be stuck.

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