



GLOSSARY

Accessibility: the provision of NPS programs, facilities, and services in ways that include individuals with disabilities, or makes available to those individuals the same benefits available to persons without disabilities.

Acquisition: the act or process of acquiring fee title or interest other than fee title of real property (including acquisition of development rights or remainder interest).

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) is an independent federal agency that promotes the preservation, enhancement, and productive use of the nation's historic resources and advises the president and Congress on national historic preservation, enhancement, and productive use of our nation's historic resources as well as national historic preservation policy. As directed by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, the council serves as the primary federal policy advisor to the president and Congress; recommends administrative and legislative improvements for protecting our nation's heritage; advocates full consideration of historic values in federal decision-making; and reviews federal programs and policies to promote effectiveness, coordination, and consistency with national preservation policies.

Air quality designations: Class I areas are those areas designated under the Clean Air Act that are afforded the highest level of protection from air pollutants, generally consist of wilderness areas, national parks, and wildlife refuges. Class II areas are areas not designated Class I. In Class II areas, additional air pollutant inputs may be permitted up to certain levels.

Airshed: a geographic area that shares the same air.

Archaeological resource: any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities that are of archaeological interest, including the record of effects of human activities on the environment. An archaeological resource is capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archaeological research.

Alternatives: sets of management elements that represent a range of options for how, or whether to proceed with a proposed action.

Aquifer: a saturated, permeable sediment or rock that can transmit significant quantities of water under hydraulic gradients.

Candidate species: species not currently protected under the Endangered Species Act but under consideration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion of the list of federally threatened or endangered species.

Climate change: a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR): a publication that codifies the general and permanent rules or regulations published in the Federal Register by the Executive branch departments and agencies of the federal government, and which carry the force of law. The citation 36 CFR 1.1 refers to part 1, section 1, of title 36.

Consultation: a discussion, conference, or forum, in which advice or information is sought or given, or information or ideas are exchanged.

Cultural landscape: a geographic area, including both the cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with an historic event, activity, or person, or exhibiting culture or aesthetic values. A way of seeing landscapes that emphasizes the interaction between human beings and nature over time. There are four overlapping types of cultural landscapes: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

Cultural resource: an aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture, or that contains significant information about a culture. A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the National Register of Historic Places, and as archaeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources for NPS management purposes.

Cumulative impact: the effect on the environment that would result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Cumulative impacts can result from similar projects or actions, as well as from projects or actions that have similar impacts (40 CFR 1508.7)

Densic: a soil type that features a cemented horizon (layer) of glacial lake sediment, which serves to restrict root and water penetration through the soil profile.

Desired future conditions: used to describe the future condition of resources needed to meet a management objective. Desired future conditions are based on ecological, social, and economic considerations during the land and resource management planning process.

Developed area: an area managed to provide and maintain facilities (such as roads, campgrounds, housing) serving park managers and visitors. Includes areas where park development or intensive use may have substantially altered the natural environment or the setting for culturally significant resources.

Draft environmental impact statement (DEIS): a draft version of an environmental impact statement. The draft is available to the public for comment for a minimum of 60 days.

Easement: a right or privilege one may have on another's land.

Ecosystem: a functioning system composed of a community of animals, plants, and bacteria and its interrelated physical and chemical environment.

Effect: the result of actions on natural and cultural resources, aesthetics, economic, social or human health and safety. Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative. Used interchangeably with "impact."

Endangered species: any animal or plant species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These species are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under provisions of the Endangered Species Act.

Environmental impact statement (EIS): a detailed National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis document that is prepared when a proposed action or alternatives have the potential for significant impact on the human environment.

Erosion: the wearing away of land surface either by natural weather processes (including water, wind, or ice) or human or animal activities.

Ethnographic resource: a site, structure, object, landscape, or natural resource feature assigned traditional, legendary, religious, subsistence, or other significance in the cultural system of a group traditionally associated with it.

Evapotranspiration: the process of transferring moisture from the earth to the atmosphere by evaporation of water and transpiration from plants.

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.

Exotic species: an animal or plant species that is not a part of an area's original fauna or flora.

Fauna: the animal life of an area.

Federal Register: a 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. Source citations for the regulations are referred to by volume number and page number of the Federal Register and the date of publication (example: 65 FR 2984, January 19, 2000).

Final environmental impact statement (FEIS): the document that responds to public comments on the draft environmental impact statement and may include corrections and revisions as a result of public comment.

Fire management plan: an implementation plan that details how the natural fire regimes and prescribed fires will be managed in the parks.

Fire suppression: all work and activities associated with fire extinguishing operations, beginning with the discovery and continuing until the fire is completely extinguished.

Floodplain: level streamside land that may be subject to flooding.

Flora: the plant life of an area.

Gateway community: a town in the areas nearby or adjacent to a national park unit. Such towns often serve as entrance points for visitors to the unit.

General management plan (GMP): a plan that clearly defines direction for resource preservation and visitor use in a park, and serves as the basic foundation for decision-making. GMPs are developed with broad public involvement and usually guide parks for 15- 20 years. GMPs are accompanied by a draft and final environmental impact statement.

Geographic information system (GIS): GIS is both a database designed to handle geographic data and a set of computer operations that can be used to analyze the data.

Glacial erratic: in geology, a glacial erratic is a boulder carried by glacial ice and deposited some distance from its place of origin.

Glacial striation: scratches on the surface of the bedrock were caused by stones and gravel at the bottom of the moving ice.

Groundwater: water that has percolated downward from the ground surface through the soil pores.

Habitat: the natural abode of a plant or animal, including all biotic, climatic, and all factors affecting life.

Herbaceous: pertaining to or characteristic of an herb (fleshy-stemmed plant), as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees.

Historic context: a unit created for planning purposes that groups information about historic properties based on a shared theme, specific time period, and geographical area.

Historic property: a district, site, building, structure, or object significant in the history of American archaeology, architecture, culture, engineering, or politics at the national, state, or local level.

Hydrology: the study of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

Impact: see effect.

Impact topic: a specific category of analysis for impacts, such as wildlife, vegetation, or historic structures. Impact topics are identified through public scoping and a determination of what aspects of the human environment would be affected if an action was implemented. Analysis of impacts for a specific topic may be required as a result of a public law or an executive order.

Impairment: an impact so severe that, in the professional judgment of a responsible NPS manager, it would harm the integrity of park resources or values and violate the 1916 NPS Organic Act.

Implementation plan: a plan that tiers off the general management plan and that specifies how one or more of the desired resources conditions, visitor experiences, or proposed actions will be accomplished. An implementation plan may direct a specific project or an ongoing activity.

Indicator: components or attributes of an ecosystem that can be observed and/or measured; an indicator provides evidence of the function, productivity, health, and/or condition of the ecosystem.

Indigenous (species): any species of wildlife native to a given land or water area by natural occurrence.

Infrastructure: a general term describing public and quasi-public utilities and facilities such as roads, bridges, sewers, and sewer plants, water lines, storm drainage, power lines, parks and recreation, public libraries, and fire stations. Infrastructure can also be considered permanent installations such as lighting, sidewalks, buildings, and water systems.

Indian Trust Resources: Indian trust resources are related to federal land that is held in trust for a federally recognized tribe.

In situ: archaeological resources that are left in their natural or original place, such as foundations, artifacts, and features. Usually meaning in the ground.

Integrated pest management (IPM): IPM evaluates alternatives for managing pest populations (insects, plants, and animals), based on the consideration of pest-host relationships.

Integrity: the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical

characteristics that existed during the property's historic or prehistoric period.

Invasive species: a non-native species (with respect to a particular ecosystem) whose introduction causes or would likely cause harm to the economy, environment, or human health.

Irretrievable: one of the categories of impacts mentioned in the National Environmental Policy Act to be included in environmental impact statements. An irretrievable effect applies to a loss of production or a commitment of renewable natural resources.

Irreversible: a category of impacts mentioned in the environmental impact statement that applies to non-renewable resources, such as minerals and archaeological sites. Irreversible effects can also refer to effects of actions that can be renewed only after a long period of time such as the loss of soil productivity.

Kiosk: a stall set up in a public place where one can obtain information.

Landscape: a large land area composed of interacting ecosystems that are repeated due to factors such as geology, soils, climate, and human impacts.

Management prescriptions: a planning term referring to statements about desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, along with appropriate kinds and levels of management, use, and development for each park area.

Management zone: the geographic location for implementing a management prescription.

Marine Terrace: a wave-cut platform that has been exposed by uplift or by lowering of the water level; an elevated wave-cut bench.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): a short written statement outlining the terms of an agreement, transaction or contract between two or more parties.

Midden: the accumulation of debris and domestic waste products resulting from human use, especially an accumulation of shells or of cinders, bones, and other refuse on the supposed site of the dwelling places of prehistoric tribes. The long-term disposal of refuse can result in stratified deposits, which are useful for relative dating.

Minority: defined by the U.S. Census as individuals who are members of the following population groups: American Indian or Alaskan Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black not of Hispanic origin; or Hispanic.

Mitigation: modification of a proposal to lessen the intensity of its impact on a particular resource; compensation for an impact.

Museum collection: objects, specimens, and archival and manuscript collections that are important resources providing valuable information about processes, events, and interactions among people and the environment.

National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS): allowable concentrations of air pollutants in the ambient (public use) air specified in 40 CFR 50. NAAQS are based on air quality criteria and divided into primary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health) and secondary standards (allowing an adequate margin of safety to protect the public welfare).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process: the objective analysis of a proposed action to determine the degree of its environmental impact on the human (natural and cultural) environment; alternatives to the proposed action; mitigation to reduce or compensate for the impact; and the full and candid presentation of the analysis to, and involvement of, the interested and affected public. This process is required of all federal agencies by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

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

National Register of Historic Places: the federal listing of nationally, regionally, and locally significant buildings, structures, sites, objects or districts. Sites listed in the National Register must be considered when making management decisions if an action could affect that site. Parks are required to assess properties over 50 years old to determine their eligibility for nomination to the National Register.

Native Americans: Native American means "of, or relating to, a tribe, people, or culture that is indigenous to the United States" according to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Typically,

the general term is applied to American Indian tribes, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific islanders. Federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives have a unique status “as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.

Native American consultation: Native American consultation is required by various laws, regulations, executive orders and policies relative to indigenous peoples who may have traditional or contemporary interests in the lands now occupied by parks. Consultation done in compliance with legal requirements is considered to be government-to-government consultation when federally recognized American Indian tribes and Alaska Natives are involved.

Native species: plants or animals indigenous to the area.

Natural quiet: refers to the state of having only natural sources of sound; for example, wind, rustling leaves, water, and animal calls.

Night sky: a sky free of artificial light sources and light pollution.

Non-extant: something no longer existing, such as non-extant structures (no longer standing).

Non-native species: plants or animals that are not indigenous to the area (see also Exotic Species).

Notice of Availability: a notice in the Federal Register of the availability to the public of either a draft or final environmental impact statement or a record of decision on an action.

Notice of Intent: a notice in the Federal Register of the intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on a proposed action.

Open space: land maintained for its intrinsic and/or open space value. Open space can be a feature in a cultural landscape, such as humanly maintained prairie or field, or it can be a natural area as opposed to a developed area.

Paleo-Indian: the culture known to have moved into the new world during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene (13,000: 8,000 years before present).

Park: any one of the more than three hundred areas of land and water administered as units of the national park system. The term is used interchangeably with “unit.”

Peak season: usually high-use times from Memorial Day to Labor Day, when most park visitation occurs.

Prescribed fires: those fires ignited by park managers to achieve resource management and fuel treatment objectives.

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object. Work might include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally focuses on the ongoing preservation, maintenance, and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work (NPS DO-28).

Public involvement: public input and participation sought in the planning for public lands and required under the National Environmental Policy Act. Comment is sought at the initial scoping (information gathering) and at the draft stages for an EIS and during initial scoping and upon publication of the document for an EA.

Reconstruction: the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a nonsurviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Record of decision (ROD): the document that states which alternative analyzed in an environmental impact statement has been selected for implementation and explains the basis for the decision. The decision is published in the Federal Register.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical or cultural values.

Repatriation: to send back to place of origin. In the case of repatriated structures, these structures would be brought back to their original location.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it

appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Regulations: rules or orders prescribed by federal agencies to regulate conduct, and published in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Revegetation: the reestablishment and development of a plant cover either by natural means or by artificial means such as reseeding.

Right-of-way (ROW): a permit or an easement that authorizes the use of public land for certain specified purposes, commonly for pipelines, roads, telephone lines, electric lines, and reservoirs. It is also the reference to the land covered by such an easement or permit.

Section 106 Consultation: also known as the 36 CFR 800 process. Discussions between a federal agency official and the State Historic Preservation Officer, and when necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other interested parties concerning historic properties that could be affected by a specific undertaking. Section 106 is the part of the National Historic Preservation Act that outlines the procedure. The procedure is codified in 36 CFR 800.

Section 7 Consultation: the requirement of Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act that federal agencies consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service if a proposed action might affect a federally listed species or its critical habitat.

Seedling: a tree grown from seed that has not reached a height of 3 feet or a diameter of 1 inch.

Sensitive species: a plant or animal species not yet officially listed, but which is undergoing status review for listing on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's official threatened and endangered list; species whose populations are small and widely dispersed or restricted to a few localities; and species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may be necessary.

Special park uses: a special park use is a short-term activity that takes place in a park area and provides

a benefit to an individual, group, or organization, rather than the public at large. A special park use requires written authorization and some degree of management control from the NPS in order to protect park resources and the public interest. The use must not be prohibited by law or regulation and cannot be initiated, sponsored, nor conducted by the NPS.

Special use permit: instrument issued by a superintendent to an individual or organization to allow the use of NPS-administered resources or to authorize activities in 36 CFR Parts 1-7 that require a permit.

Socioeconomic analysis: the task of assessing the impact of a plan or project on a community's or region's social structure, on a community's fiscal health, or a region's economic basis.

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

Stabilization: according to NPS management policies, archaeological resources, buildings, structures, and objects subject to erosion, slumping, subsidence, or other natural deterioration will be stabilized using the least intrusive and destructive methods. The methods used will protect natural resources and processes to the maximum extent feasible. Stabilization will occur only after sufficient research demonstrates the likely success of the proposed stabilizing action, and after exiting conditions are documented.

Stakeholder: an individual, group, or other entity that has a strong interest in decisions concerning park resources and values. Stakeholders may include recreational user groups, people with a historic affiliation to the park, permittees, and concessioners. In the broadest sense, all Americans are stakeholders in the national parks.

State Historic Preservation Officer or Office (SHPO): an official in each state appointed by the governor to administer the state historic preservation program and carry out certain responsibilities relating to federal undertakings in the state.

Stewardship: the cultural and natural resource protection ethic of employing the most effective concepts, techniques, equipment, and technology to prevent, avoid, or mitigate impacts that would compromise the integrity of park resources.

Strategic plan: a servicewide five- year plan required by the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) in which the NPS states how it plans to accomplish its mission during that time, and the value it expects to produce for the tax dollars expended. Similarly, each park, program, or central office has its own strategic plan, which considers the servicewide mission plus its own particular mission. Strategic plans serve as “performance agreements” with the American people.

Superintendent: the senior NPS official in a park; used interchangeably with “park superintendent” or “unit manager.”

Sustainable: the yield of a natural resource that can be produced continually at a given intensity of management is said to be sustainable.

Sustainability: the ability of an ecosystem to maintain ecological processes and functions, biological diversity, and productivity over time.

Threatened and endangered species: as defined in the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93-205; 87 Stat. 884), “endangered species” is “any species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range” and a “threatened species” is “any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. “Whether a species is threatened or endangered is determined by the following factors: (1) present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range; (2) overutilization for commercial, sporting, scientific, or educational purposes; (3) disease or predation; (4) inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms, or (5) other natural or human-made factors.

Understory: the trees and woody shrubs growing beneath the tallest trees or other vegetation in an area.

User capacity: the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in a park without degradation. Management prescriptions in the general management plan conceptually describe user capacity.

Visitor: anyone who uses a park’s interpretive, recreational, and educational services, regardless of where such use occurs (such as through Internet access, library, or other methods).

Visitor use: passive or active recreational activity on public land.

Visual resource: a part of the landscape important for its scenic quality. It may include a composite of terrain, geologic features, or vegetation.

Watershed: an area that collects and discharges runoff to a given point. It is often used synonymously with drainage basin or catchment area.

Wetland: areas that are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances will support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Typical wetlands include marshes, shallow swamps, sloughs, lakeshores, bogs, wet meadows, river overflows, mud flats, and riparian areas.

Wildfire: an unwanted wildland fire, regardless of ignition source, which is unplanned, has escaped control, or does not meet management objectives and therefore requires a suppression response.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1970	ADA
Asset Business Plan	ABP
Asset Priority Index	API
Bureau of Land Management	BLM
Comprehensive Interpretive Plan	CIP
Cultural Landscape Inventory	CLI
Current Replacement Value	CRV
Environmental Impact Statement	EIS
Facility Condition Index	FCI
Facility Management Software System	FMSS
Full time equivalent	FTE
General Management Plan	GMP
Government Performance and Results Act	GPRA
Island Oil Spill Association	IOSA
Long Range Interpretive Plan	LRIP
Marine Protected Area	MPA
Memorandum of Agreement	MOA
Memorandum of Understanding	MOU
Multiple Property Document	MPD
National Environmental Policy Act	NEPA
National Historic Landmark	NHL
National Historic Preservation Act	NHPA
National Park Service	NPS
National Register of Historic Places	NRHP
Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act	NAGPRA
Natural Resources Conservation Service	NRCS
Natural Resource Conservation Area	NRCA
Operations and Maintenance	OM
Oregon Museum of Science and Industry	OMSI
Park Asset Management Plan	PAMP
Record of Decision	ROD
United States Department of Agriculture	USDA
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	USFWS
University of Washington Friday Harbor Labs	Labs
Volunteers in the Park Program	VIP
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	WDFW
Washington Department of Natural Resources	DNR