

## **Appendix F**

### **Glossary of Terms**

## Glossary of Terms Used in Environmental Analysis

**Affected environment:** The existing biological, physical, social, and economic conditions of an area that are subject to change, both directly and indirectly, as a result of a proposed human action.

**Air Quality:** A measure of health- and visibility-related characteristics of air.

**Alternatives:** A reasonable range of options that can achieve an agency's objectives.

**Beneficial Impact:** When the proposed action would improve the environment.

**Cultural landscape:** An area with both cultural and natural elements that is associated with an historic event, activity, or person, or that exhibits other cultural or aesthetic values.

**Cultural resources:** Properties such as landscapes or districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, or cultural practices that are usually greater than 50 years old and possess architectural, historic, scientific, or other technical value.

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

**Geologic hazards:** Natural geologic processes that do or could present a threat to humans or developed areas.

**Enhancement:** Activities conducted to improve the quality or biological function of an impacted natural resource.

**Hazardous material:** A substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness, or that pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, disposed of, or otherwise managed.

**Hydric soils:** Soils characterized by an abundance of moisture that periodically produce anaerobic conditions. These soils are typically found in wetland habitats.

**Hydrology:** Distribution and circulation of water on the surface of the land, in the soil, and in the atmosphere.

**Hydrophytic plant:** Any plant growing in water or in a substrate that has an abundance of moisture. Hydrophytic plants are typically found in wetland habitats.

**Impacts:** Effects, both beneficial and adverse, of an action on the environment. Direct impacts are those occurring at the same time and place as the action itself. Indirect impacts occur later in time or are further removed in distance from the action, yet are reasonably foreseeable.

**Long-term impact:** Activities that would harm the integrity of resources or values.

**Mitigation:** An activity designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce, or compensate for the severity of, or eliminate impacts from, the proposed project. A mitigation measure should be a solution to an identified problem.

**Nutrient loading:** Percentage of nutrients associated with animal waste reaching an identified waterbody.

**Natural resources:** Features that include plants and animals, water, air, soils, topographic features, and geologic features.

**No action alternative:** An alternative that continues current management direction. Action alternatives are compared against the no action alternative.

**Restoration:** Management actions or work to remove impacts to natural resources, to restore natural processes, and to return a site to natural conditions.

**Sediment:** A particle of soil or rock that is transported and/or deposited by surface runoff or a stream.

**Special-status species:** Species of plants and animals that receive special protection under state and federal laws.

**Threatened and endangered species:** Species of plants and animals that have been formally listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the federal Endangered Species Act or corresponding state statutes, and receive protection under those laws. These species are included within the broader category of special-status species.

**Wetland:** Areas that are inundated by surface or groundwater with a frequency sufficient to support, under normal circumstances, vegetation or aquatic life that requires saturated or seasonally saturated soil conditions for growth and reproduction.