

GLOSSARY

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Accelerated erosion or accelerated sediment production	Erosion at a greater rate than natural usually associated with human activities that either reduce vegetative cover or increase surface runoff.
Affected environment	The physical, biological, social, and economic environment that would or may be changed by actions proposed and the relationship of people to that environment.
Airshed	<p>A geographical area that, because of topography, meteorology, and climate, shares the same air. The Clean Air Act establishes three air quality classes (I, II, and III), each with defined air quality standards.</p> <p>Class I airsheds are areas designated for the most stringent degree for protection from future degradation of air quality.</p> <p>Class II airsheds are areas where a moderate amount of development could occur.</p> <p>Class III airsheds are areas where significant development could occur as long as National Ambient Air Quality Standards are not exceeded.</p>
Alternative	One of several conceptual development plans described and evaluated in the EIS.
Army Corps of Engineers (COE)	The federal agency charged with enforcing the Clean Water Act by regulation of dredge-and-fill activities in wetlands.
Background	A landscape viewing area visible area visible to a viewer from approximately three to five miles to infinity. Also, in economics, naturally occurring; un-induced.
Best Management Practices (BMPs)	A practice or a combination of practices that are determined by a State or a designated planning agency to be the most effective and practicable means (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) of controlling non-point source pollutants at levels compatible with water quality goals.
Biological Evaluation	An evaluation conducted to determine whether a proposed action is likely to affect any species that are listed as sensitive (USFS), candidate (USFS), or other special designations.
Buffer	A land area that is designated to block or absorb unwanted impacts to the area beyond the buffer. Buffer strips along a trail could block views that are undesirable. Buffers along streams can greatly reduce any changes or impacts to stream water quality, temperature, or channel stability.
California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	A California law that sets forth a process for public agencies to make informed decisions on discretionary project approvals.
Candidate species	Those plant and animal species that, in the opinion of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, may become threatened or endangered. Not protected under the Endangered Species Act.
Canopy	The more or less continuous cover of leaves, needles, and/or branches collectively formed by the crowns of adjacent trees in a stand or forest.
Compaction	A physical change in soils properties that results when pore spaces are reduced in size and soil becomes denser. Compaction generally occurs when a load is applied to the soil, such as when heavy equipment makes several passes that compress the soil.

Connectivity	The degree to which similar but separated vegetation components of a landscape are connected.
Contracting Officer	A term used by the USFS meaning a person who can bind the US government to a contract.
Contracting officer's Representative (COR)	A term used by the USFS meaning a qualified individual appointed by the Contracting officer to assist in the technical monitoring or administration of a contract.
Cooperating agency	A federal agency, other than a lead agency, which has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to any environmental impact associated with the proposed action or one of the alternatives. A state or local agency or an Indian tribe may be a cooperating agency with agreement from the lead agency.
Corridor	A linear strip of land identified for the present or future location of transportation or utility rights-of-way within its boundaries. Also, a contiguous strip of habitat suitable to facilitate animal dispersion or migration.
Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ)	An advisory council to the President established by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. It reviews federal programs for the effect on the environment, conducts environmental studies, and advises the President on environmental matters.
Cover	Vegetation used by wildlife for protection from predators and weather conditions, or in which to reproduce.
Critical habitat	A formal designation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act, that may be applied to a particular habitat that is essential to the life cycle of a given species, and if lost, would adversely affect that species. Critical habitat can have less formal meaning when used outside the context of the Endangered Species Act.
Cultural resource	Cultural resources are tangible and intangible aspects of cultural systems, living and dead, which are valued by a given culture or contain information about the culture. Cultural resources include, but are not limited to sites, structures, buildings, districts, and object associated with or representative of people, cultures, and human activities and events.
Cumulative effect	The effect on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such other actions. Each increment from each project may not be noticeable but cumulative effects may be noticeable when all increments are considered together.
Developed recreation site	An area with characteristics that enable to accommodate, or be used for, intense recreation. Such sites are often enhanced to augment the recreational value. Improvements range from those designed to provide great comfort and convenience to the user to rudimentary improvements in isolated areas.
Direct effect	An effect which occurs as a result of an action associated with implementing the proposal or one of the alternatives, including construction, operation, and maintenance.
Dispersed recreation	Recreation that occurs outside of a developed recreation site and includes such activities as driving, hunting, backpacking, and recreation activities in primitive environments.
Effects	Results expected to be achieved from the implementation of the alternatives relative to physical, biological, economic, and social factors. Effects can be direct, indirect, or cumulative and may be either beneficial or detrimental.

Electrical Terms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Electric power is expressed in watts (W). 1,000 W equals 1 kilowatt (kW). 1,000 kW equals 1 megawatt (MW).▪ Electric energy is power supplied over time, expressed in watt-hours (WHr). 1,000 WHr equals 1 kWhr. 1,000 kWhr equals 1 MWH.▪ The cost of electricity (rate) is usually expressed in cents per kilowatt hours (c/kWhr).
Endangered species	An official designation for any species of plant or animal that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. An endangered species must be designated in the Federal Register by the appropriate Federal Agency Secretary.
Engineering representative	A USFS qualified person responsible to assure that the project is carried out according to the specifications of the contract.
Environmental analysis	An analysis of alternative actions and their predictable short and long-term environmental effects, which include physical, biological, economic, social and environmental design factors and their interactions.
Environmental Impact Report	A detailed statement prepared under CEQA describing and analyzing the significant environmental effects of a project and discussing ways to mitigate or avoid the effects.
Environmental Impact Statement	A disclosure document required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) that documents the anticipated environmental effects of a proposed action that may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.
Environmental Protection Agency	The federal agency charged with lead enforcement of multiple environmental laws, including review of Environmental Impact Statements.
Ephemeral stream	A stream or portion of a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, receiving little or no water from springs and no long-continued supply from snow or other sources, and whose channel is at all times above the water table.
Erosion	The detachment and movement of soil from the land surface by wind, water, ice, or gravity.
Erosion control	Materials, structures, and techniques designed to reduce erosion. Erosion control may include rapid revegetation, avoiding steep or highly erosive sites, and installation of cross-slope drainage structures.
Erosion hazard	Soil ratings to predict the erosion hazard or potential to be eroded.
Fen	A peat accumulating wetland that receives some drainage from surrounding mineral soils and usually supports marsh-like vegetation including sedges, rushes, shrubs, and trees. Fens are less acidic than bogs, and derive most of their water from groundwater rich in calcium and magnesium.
Fill	Earth or rock moved during road construction and used to build up portions of the roadway.
Fill slope	The sloping earth surface on the downhill side of a road resulting from roadway excavation.
Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)	A document that is prepared if the agency finds, in an environmental assessment, that the proposed action will not significantly affect the human environment. It must set forth the reasons for such a decision.

Flag and avoid	The hanging of flagging in order to identify for the purpose of avoidance of a special feature in an area.
Forage	All browse and non-woody plants used for grazing or harvested for feeding livestock or game animals.
Foreground	The landscape area visible to an observer from the immediate area to .5 miles
Forest Plan	A comprehensive management plan prepared under the National Forest Management Act of 1976 that provides standards and guidelines for management activities specific to each National Forest. The ENF Forest Plan was approved in 1988.
Forest Service	The agency of the United States Department of Agriculture responsible for managing the National Forests and Grasslands.
Forest Service representative	Forest Service personnel responsible for assuring the project is carried out according to the specifications of the contract.
Forest Supervisor	The official responsible for administering the National Forest System lands in a Forest Service administrative unit, who reports to the Regional Forester.
Fuel	Any substance or composite mixture susceptible to ignition and combustion.
GIS	Geographic Information System, a computer mapping system composed of hardware and software.
GPS	Global Positioning System, a satellite-based surveying system.
Global Warming Potential	The quantified measure of the globally average relative radiative forcing impacts of a particular greenhouse gas. It is the ratio of the time-integrated radiative forcing from the instantaneous release of 1 kilogram of a trace substance relative to that of 1 kilogram of a reference gas (IPCC, 2001).
Greenhouse gas	A gas in an atmosphere that absorbs and emits radiation within the thermal infrared range. The primary greenhouse gasses in the Earth's atmosphere are water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and ozone.
Groundwater	Subsurface water in the part of the ground that is wholly saturated.
Habitat	The sum of environmental conditions of a specific place that is occupied by an organism, a population, or a community.
Habitat type	A classification of the vegetation resource based on the dominant growth forms. The forested areas are more specifically classified by the dominant tree species.
Hydrologic cycle	Also called the water cycle, this is the process of water evaporating, condensing, falling to the ground as precipitation, and returning to the ocean as runoff.
Indirect impact	Secondary consequences to the environment resulting from a direct impact. An example of an indirect impact is the deposition of sediment in a wetland resulting from surface disturbance in the upland.
Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team)	A group of individuals each representing specialty resource areas assembled to solve a problem or perform a task through frequent interaction so that different disciplines can combine to provide new solutions.

Intermittent stream	A stream or portion of a stream, that does not flow year-round but only when it (a) receives base flow solely during wet periods, or (b) receives groundwater discharge or protracted contributions from melting snow or other erratic surface and shallow subsurface sources.
Irretrievable commitments	Losses of production or use for a period of time. An example is suited timberland being used for a skid trail. Timber growth on the land is irretrievably lost while the land is a skid trail, but the timber resource is not irreversibly lost because the land could grow trees again in the near future.
Irreversible commitments	Permanent or essentially permanent resource uses or losses that cannot be reversed, except in the extreme long term. Examples include minerals that have been extracted or soil productivity that has been lost.
Issue	A public or agency concern about a specific action or area that is addressed in the NEPA process.
Landscape	A heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystems that are repeated in similar form throughout.
Lop and scatter	When branches are cut from fallen trees and scattered over the area rather than piled for burning. This allows the slash to lie close to the ground to reduce the fire hazard and accelerate decompositions.
Management area	An area of land with similar management goals and a common management prescription, as described in the Forest Plan.
Management direction	A Forest Plan statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, the associated management prescriptions, and standards and guidelines for attaining them.
Management emphasis	Long term management direction for a specific area or type of land.
Management indicator species (MIS)	A representative group of species that is dependent on a specific habitat type. The health of an indicator species is used to gauge function of the habitat on which it depends.
Management practice	A specific activity, measure, course of action, or treatment.
Mass wasting	The movement of unstable soils and geologic formations, which can be exacerbated through construction on sites prone to movement.
Mastication	A process to manipulate fuels or biomass (trees, thinning slash, shrubs, etc.) from a larger size to a smaller size.
Middle ground	The landscape area visible to a viewer from .5 miles to about three-to-five miles.
Mitigation	Actions taken to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, or rectify the adverse environmental impacts associated with the implementation of an alternative or a portion thereof.
Modification	See Visual Quality Objectives
Monitoring	The process of collecting information to evaluate if objectives and anticipated or assumed results of a management plan are being realized or if implementation is proceeding as planned.
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Established under the Clean Air Act of 1963, there are primary standards, designed to protect public health, and secondary standards, designed to protect public welfare from known or anticipated air pollutants.

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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	A law enacted by Congress in 1969 that requires Federal agencies to analyze the environmental effects of all major federal activities that may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.
National Forest Management Act (NFMA)	A law passed in 1976 as an amendment to the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act that requires the preparation of regulations to guide that development.
National Forest System (NFS) Lands	National Forests, National Grasslands, and other related lands for which the Forest Service is assigned administrative responsibility.
National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)	An act that was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1966 to protect historic sites and artifacts (16 U.S.C. 470). Section 106 of the Act requires consultation with members and representatives of Indian tribes.
National Register of Historic Places	A listing maintained by the National Park Service of areas that have been designated as historically significant. The register includes places of local and state significance, as well as those of value to the nation in general.
No Action Alternative	The management direction, activities, outputs, and effects that are likely to exist in the future if the current trends and management would continue unchanged. Under NEPA, it means following the current approved Forest Plan management direction and guidance.
Noise Level Abbreviations	<p>L_{max} = a single event criteria used to evaluate acceptable maximum noise levels.</p> <p>L_{eq}(15) = a short-term measurement averaging noise over a 15-minute period.</p> <p>L_{eq}(hourly) = is an average noise over a 60-minute period</p> <p>L_{dn} is a day-night equivalent level that assigns a 10 dB penalty to noises occurring during nighttime hours (7 p.m. to 7 a.m.).</p> <p>CNEL (Community Noise Equivalent Level) is weighted to penalize evening and nighttime noise, thereby representing community noise levels for a full 24-hour period</p>
Noxious weed	A designated plant species that causes negative ecological and economic impacts to both agricultural and national forest lands.
Objective	A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to pre-established goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and the resources to be used in achieving identified goals.
Overbuild	To build over the top of. In the case of the proposed action, this means replacing the existing power poles with taller ones and putting new power lines above the old power lines.
Partial retention	See Visual Quality Objectives
Particulates	Small particles suspended in the air and generally considered pollutants.
Perennial stream	A creek or river that flows all year (see intermittent and ephemeral).
Permit area	See Special Use Permit Area
pH	A numeric value used to represent the acidity or alkalinity of an aqueous solution. The pH scale ranges from 0 (acidic) to 14.0 (basic); 7.0 is a neutral solution.

File and burn	Natural or activity fuels that are piled by hand or with equipment and then burned. Fuels are piled in openings where fire spread can be controlled and heat will do minimal damage to surrounding trees.
Prehistoric	The period prior to a written record, and may include emigrant exploration, trappers, miners, etc., but generally refers to the previous Native American (aboriginal) occupants of the area, who kept no written records.
Prescription	Direction given for land and resource management in a given area.
Project area	The project area consists of 100 feet each side of the overhead line, 50 feet each side of the buried line, and includes substations and staging areas.
Proponent	The individual or business that is proposing the development. In this case, Kirkwood Meadow Public Utilities District.
Record of Decision (ROD)	A document prepared within 30 days after the final EIS is issued which states the agency's decision and why one alternative was favored over another, what factors entered into the agency's decision, and whether all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm have been adopted, and if not, why not.
Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS)	<p>A means of classifying and managing recreation opportunities based on physical setting, social setting, and managerial setting. The six different ROS classes briefly described are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primitive (P) – An area three miles or more from roads and trails with motorized use; generally 5,000 acres or more in an essentially unmodified natural environment. 2. Semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) – An area .5 mile from roads and trails with motorized use; generally 2,500 to 5,000 acres with only subtle modifications to an otherwise natural setting. 3. Semi-primitive motorized (SPM) – Same as SPNM but with motorized use; generally 2,500 to 5,000 acres with only subtle modifications to an otherwise natural setting. 4. Roaded Natural (RN) – An area .5mile or less from roads; resource modifications range from evident to strongly dominant. 5. Rural (R) - The setting is substantially modified with structures or other cultural modifications. 6. Urban (U) – The setting is dominated by structures, highways, and streets.
Recreational visitor day (RVD)	Twelve hours of recreation use in any combination of persons and hours (i.e. one person for 12 hours, three persons for 4 hours, etc.)
Responsible Agency	Under CEQA, Responsible Agency means a public agency that proposes to carry out or approve a project for which a Lead Agency is preparing or has prepared an EIR.
Revegetation	The reestablishment and development
Revegetation potential	The ability or capacity of a site to be revegetated after a disturbance, which often depends on the quantity and quality of topsoil remaining in place.
Ripping	A process to mitigate soil compaction. Using equipment with a toothed blade or set of heavy tines mounted at the front or rear of the equipment to break up hard ground or to tear out stumps and boulders; can be synonymous with sub-soiling and tilling.

Roadless area	A National Forest area that satisfies the following criteria: a) larger than 5,000 acres or, if smaller than 5,000 acres, contiguous to a designated wilderness or primitive area, b) contains no roads, and c) has been inventoried by the Forest Service for possible inclusion in the Wilderness Preservation System.
Scenery Management System	A system designed for the inventory and analysis of the aesthetic values of NFS lands. The SMS evolved from and replaces the VMS defined in Agricultural handbook #462. The SMS provides for improved integration of aesthetics with other biological, physical, and social/cultural resources in the planning process.
Scoping process	A process that determines the issues, concerns, and opportunities that should be considered in analyzing the impacts of a proposal by receiving input from the public and affected agencies. The depths of analysis for the identified issues are determined during scoping.
Sensitive species	Species that have appeared in the Federal Register as proposed additions to the endangered or threatened species list; those that are on an official State list or are recognized by the Regional Forester to need special management in order to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened.
Significant Effect on the Environment	Under CEQA, this means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project.
Significant impact	A somewhat objective judgment based on the context and intensity of the impact. Generally, a significant impact is one that exceeds a standard, guideline, law, or regulation.
Snag	A standing dead tree.
Soil productivity	The capacity of a soil for producing plant biomass under a specific system of management. It is expressed in terms of volume or weight/unit area/year.
Special Use Permit (SUP)	A legal document, similar to a lease, issued by the U.S. Forest Service. These permits are issued to private individuals or corporations to conduct commercial operations on National Forest System lands. They specify the terms and conditions under which the permitted activity may be conducted.
Stand	A community of trees or other vegetation, that is sufficiently uniform in composition, constitution, age, spatial arrangement, or condition, to be distinguishable from adjacent communities and to thus form a management entity.
Study area	The geographical area that was analyzed to predict the possible effect that may be associated with proposed alternatives. This area varies depending on the resource, but often coincides with the special use permit boundary.
Threatened species	Any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future and that has been designated in the Federal Register as a threatened species.
Treatment	A specified method for the purpose of reaching or bringing land and/or resource conditions towards a desired condition or goal.
Understory	Low-growing vegetation (herbaceous, brush, or reproduction) growing under a stand of trees. Also, that portion of trees in a forest stand below the overstory.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	The agency of the Department of the Interior responsible for managing wildlife, including non-ocean going species protected by the Endangered Species Act.

Viability	The ability of a wildlife or plant population to maintain sufficient size so that it persists over time in spite of normal fluctuations in numbers; usually expressed as a probability of maintaining a specific population for a specific period.
Viewshed	An area visible to an observer from a fixed vantage point, such as a key observation point or from a collection of vantage points along a travel corridor, such as a road or river, thus defining the area seen of the travel corridor.
Visual Management System (VMS)	As defined in Agricultural Handbook #462, provides a method for setting measurable objectives for the management of the visual resource. It provides standards for the inventorying the visual resource and documenting changes in the landscape.
Visual quality	Describes the degree of variety in the landscape, created by the basic vegetative patterns, landform, and water forms. Landscapes with the greatest variety or diversity have the greatest potential for high scenic value of visual quality.
Visual Quality Objective (VQO)	<p>A set of measurable maximum levels of future alteration of a characteristic landscape. These levels are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Preservation (P) – Ecological change only here.2. Retention (R) – Human activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.3. Partial Retention (PR) – Human activity may be evident but must remain subordinate to the characteristic landscape.4. Modification (M) – Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape, but must at the same time follow naturally established form, line, color, and texture. It should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed in the foreground or middle ground.5. Maximum Modification (MM) – Human activity may dominate the characteristic landscape but should appear as a natural occurrence when viewed as a background.6. Enhancement (E) – A short-term management alternative that is done with the express purpose of increasing positive visual variety where little variety now exists.
Visual resource	The composite of basic terrain, geologic features, water features, vegetative patterns, and land use effects that typify a land unit and influence the visual appeal the unit may have for visitors.
Water quality	Refers to the chemical, physical, or biological characteristics that describe the conditions of a river, stream, or lake.
Watershed	The entire area that contributes water to a drainage system or stream.
Wilderness	Under the 1964 Wilderness Act, wilderness is undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements of human habitation. It is protected and managed so to preserve its natural conditions.