

# Federal Lands Permit

## Attachment H Glossary of Terms and Acronyms

This document contains definitions of terms and acronyms commonly used in the Federal Lands Permit Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program. Underlined words identify terms that are defined elsewhere in this document. Footnotes identify where legal definitions or further discussion of terms may be found and/or other additional information.

### I. TERMS

1. **Activities** – Types of actions conducted by Federal Agencies that are covered by the Order. Activities include fuel management, timber harvest, road construction, livestock grazing, and other actions conducted by Federal Agencies or contractors on federal lands. A Federal Agency project may include one or many different activities. This Order covers discharges of waste from Category A activities that may pose a low risk to water quality and Category B activities that may pose a moderate risk to water quality<sup>1</sup>.
2. **Adaptive Management** – A management approach that involves implementing a management strategy, closely monitoring its effects, and then adapting future actions based on the observed results. The goal of adaptive management is to apply management measures, learn from the implementation of those management measures, and revise them as necessary to achieve management objectives.
3. **Administrative Unit** – A subdivision of a larger Federal Agency, such as an individual National Forest, a Bureau of Land Management Field Office, or a National Park or National Monument.
4. **Aquatic Habitat Restoration** – Activities generally associated with stream channel and floodplain habitat improvements, large wood augmentation, fish-migration barrier removal, treatment of invasive plant species, wetland enhancement, and forest rehabilitation. These activities are restorative in nature and are designed to enhance the structure and function of aquatic habitat conditions, improve the riparian zone, and reduce long-term erosion and

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<sup>1</sup> See Findings D. 1-7 on pages 7-11 in the Order for further discussion of *activities* eligible for Federal Lands Permit coverage.

sedimentation<sup>2</sup>. The State Water Resources Control Board and North Coast Water Board maintain separate general permits to authorize aquatic habitat restoration projects, including the (1) General Water Quality Certification for Small Habitat Restoration Projects and (2) the Statewide Restoration General Order. Administrative Units should contact the North Coast Water Board for guidance regarding which permit is best suited for a given aquatic habitat restoration project.

5. **Authorized Representative** – A person that is authorized by the appropriate Federal Agency to sign reports, monitoring forms, or other documents required by the Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program for submittal to the North Coast Water Board.
6. **Beneficial Uses** – Uses of water that benefit humans, aquatic ecosystems, and/or the environment. The North Coast Water Board identifies the specific beneficial uses of water that apply to each watershed and develops approaches to ensure those beneficial uses of water are protected against degradation of quality. Examples of beneficial uses include, but are not limited to, domestic, municipal, agricultural, and industrial supply; recreation; aesthetic enjoyments; navigation; Native American cultural use, subsistence fishing, and preservation and enhancement of fish, wildlife, and other aquatic resources and preserves. Beneficial uses of waters of the state within the North Coast Region are listed in the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region<sup>3</sup>.
7. **Best Management Practices (BMPs)** – Tools or a combination of tools to control water pollution by managing the sources from which pollutants are released and/or treating pathways that have become polluted through the implementation of physical structures, land management techniques, or natural processes.
8. **California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)** – A California law that requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible. The Federal Lands Permit is supported by an environmental analysis referred to as an Environmental Impact Report to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

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<sup>2</sup> See Order Finding D.5.a on page 9 of the Order for guidance on aquatic habitat restoration permitting.

<sup>3</sup> See Chapter 2 of the Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region, *Beneficial Uses*, for additional discussion:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/083105-bp/03\\_bu.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/083105-bp/03_bu.pdf).

9. **Category A Activities** – A set of activities determined by the North Coast Water Board to pose a low risk to water quality, such as Christmas tree harvest, routine road maintenance, etc.<sup>4</sup>
10. **Category B Activities** – A set of activities determined by the North Coast Water Board to pose a moderate risk to water quality, such as most commercial timber harvest, vegetation treatments within riparian reserves, etc.<sup>5</sup>
11. **Controllable Sediment Discharge Source (CSDS)** – Any location that meets all the following conditions:
  - a. is discharging or has the potential to discharge sediment to waters of the state in violation of applicable water quality requirements;
  - b. was caused or affected by human activity; and
  - c. may feasibly and reasonably respond to prevention and minimization management activities.

The term “controllable sediment discharge source” replaces the term “legacy sediment site” which was previously used in the 2010 and 2015 Waivers. The criteria for what constitute a legacy sediment site and controllable sediment discharge source is identical. The purpose of this administrative change is to eliminate the word “legacy” from the term, since non-legacy sources (i.e., those caused by recent activities) can also meet the controllable sediment discharge source criteria<sup>6</sup>.

12. **Corrective Actions** – Actions taken to address existing or threatened discharges of waste. Includes, but is not limited to, actions to address:
  - a. deficient or improperly installed BMPs;
  - b. impacts to water quality resulting from operations; and
  - c. sites identified during monitoring and/or by North Coast Water Board staff that pose an existing or potential threat to water quality.
13. **Determination of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Adequacy** – A Federal Agency determination that a proposed action is adequately analyzed in an existing NEPA document. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy is a means by which an existing NEPA analysis is used to cover a proposed action without doing any additional NEPA.

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<sup>4</sup> See Attachment A for the list of Category A activities.

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment B for the list of Category B activities.

<sup>6</sup> See Findings E.2-7 on page 11-13 in the Order for further discussion of *controllable sediment discharge sources*.

14. **Discharge of Waste** – Waste that is currently entering, or as determined based upon visible physical conditions may immediately enter, surface waters in quantities that violate Water Quality Objectives or result in significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the beneficial uses of waters of the state.
15. **Discrete Stream Side Features** – Erosion features in grazing allotments that exceed 1 cubic yard of sediment delivery and appear to be related to large ungulate activity.
16. **Emergency** – A situation on federally managed lands for which an immediate action is necessary to protect human life or property. Includes wildfires, floods, debris flows, etc.
17. **Federal Agencies** – Federal land management agencies in the North Coast Region that the Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program applies to, primarily including the United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. The Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard also manage land in the North Coast Region, but the types of activities conducted on these federally managed lands differ from those conducted by the USFS, BLM, and NPS, and therefore are not specifically described in this Order<sup>7</sup>.
18. **Federal Guidance Documents** – Federal policies, planning frameworks, and other documents that guide project and program planning, development, and implementation to manage natural resources on federal lands. Federal Guidance Documents may apply to one or more Federal Agencies (e.g., the Northwest Forest Plan) or may be Federal Agency-specific (e.g., individual National Forest Plans or Bureau of Land Management Field Office Resource Management Plans). The Order requires Federal Agencies to comply with applicable Federal Guidance Documents as identified and described in Attachment G Section III.D.
19. **Forage Utilization** – The proportion or degree of current year's forage production that is consumed or destroyed by grazing animals (including insects). Utilization is determined by comparing the amount of forage left with the amount of forage produced during the year.
20. **Grazing Permit** – A grazing permit is a written permit authorization by a Federal Agency that allows the private parties to graze their livestock and conduct incidental activities (e.g., camps, water troughs, temporary corrals, herding, livestock loading and unloading) on federal lands.

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<sup>7</sup> These other agencies can apply for coverage as needed when conducting activities covered by this Order. Please see Findings B.3 on page 4 in the Order for additional information.

21. **Key Area** – A key area is a portion(s) of the range, which, because of its location, grazing or browsing value, and/or use serves as an indicative sample of range conditions, trend, or degree of use seasonally. A key area guides the general management of the entire area of which it is part. General criteria for identifying a key area include the following:
- a. Is located in suitable range and is permanently marked.
  - b. Is representative of the primary range and sensitive to changes in livestock management.
  - c. Guide the manager in determining if standards and guidelines are being met and/or desired conditions are being met.
  - d. Is a critical area where use must be closely monitored because of forest plan requirements, such as riparian areas or areas where threatened, endangered, or sensitive species may occur.
  - e. May be a reference point that is sensitive to management changes. These include small areas where long-term trend studies are installed and maintained so that the manager can assess the resource impacts from management.
22. **Management Measure** – Refers to best management practices, project design features, on-the-ground prescriptions, or any other protection measures taken for the prevention or minimization of discharges of waste to waters of the state or other environmental impacts.
- a. Best management practices are management measures that are general and must be considered in NEPA project planning.
  - b. Project design features are management measures applied at the NEPA project-scale to comply with or implement a best management practice.
  - c. On-the-ground prescriptions are project design features that are specific to the condition and treatment requirements of individual sites within a project.
23. **Manual Treatment** – The use of only hand tools (mechanical or gas-powered) to implement project activities, such as the manual treatment of fuels (i.e., hand thinning).
24. **Mature Stream Bank Trees** – Any tree located on a streambank that contributes to streambank stabilization and its removal may result in discharge of sediment

and/or streambank destabilization<sup>8</sup>.

25. **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – Requires Federal Agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed major federal actions prior to making decisions.
26. **Nonpoint Source Pollution** – Pollution that occurs when rain, snowmelt, or other sources of runoff moves over or through the land picking up and carrying natural or human-made pollutants and discharges them to surface waters.
27. **On-The-Ground Prescription** – Protection measures taken to implement what a Project Design Feature or Best Management Practice sets out as a requirement. On-The-Ground Prescriptions are rarely included in a project NEPA document; these prescriptions are typically written at the sale or contract phase of project implementation.
28. **Operations** – Project implementation involving ground disturbing activities requiring permit coverage. A variety of operations may occur to achieve the objectives of a single management activity (e.g., vegetation management activities may include timber harvesting operations, thinning operations, manual fuel treatments, prescribed burning operations, etc.).
29. **Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act** – The principal law governing water quality regulation in California. It establishes a comprehensive program to protect water quality and the beneficial uses of water. It applies to surface waters, wetlands, and ground water and to both point and nonpoint sources of pollution<sup>9</sup>.
30. **Pesticide** – Any substance, or mixture of substances which is intended to be used for defoliating plants, regulating plant growth, or for preventing, destroying, repelling, or mitigating any pest, which may infest or be detrimental to vegetation, man, animals, or households, or be present in any agricultural or nonagricultural environment whatsoever, spray adjuvant, or breakdown products of these material that threaten beneficial uses.
31. **Pollutant** – Any dredged spoil, solid waste, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, munitions, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged into water.

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<sup>8</sup> See the “Staff Report Supporting the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature...” for additional discussion of mature streambank trees: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/140516\\_temp/140327\\_Temp\\_Policy\\_Staff\\_Report\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/140516_temp/140327_Temp_Policy_Staff_Report_ADOPTED.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act may be reviewed here: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf).

32. **Project** – An entire NEPA planning area in which certain land management activities are proposed to occur. There may be multiple “sub-projects” such as individual timber sales within the NEPA planning area but under this Order the entire NEPA planning area is considered as an individual project. Eligible activities analyzed and conducted by tiering from an existing NEPA document, such as a Determination of NEPA Adequacy, are also considered a project and must comply with the conditions of this Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program<sup>10</sup>.
33. **Project Design Features** – Resource protection measures developed by resource specialists to minimize or prevent any adverse environmental effects from project implementation and are incorporated into project documents (including NEPA) that guide project implementation. Project Design Features are incorporated into sale contracts and typically articulate the general, Federal Agency standard best management practices into more project-specific conditions.
34. **Properly Functioning Condition** – Proper functioning condition (PFC) is a qualitative method developed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service to assess the condition of riparian-wetland areas based on hydrology, vegetation, and erosion/deposition (soils) attributes.
35. **Riparian Zone and Riparian Area** – Lands along the edges of waterbodies where soils, vegetation, and ecosystems are influenced and supported by the presence of water. Riparian zones (and areas) benefit water quality and ecosystems by supplying shade, habitat, shelter, and food to aquatic and terrestrial species, regulating water temperatures, filtering sediment and other pollutants from runoff, contributing to stream bank stabilization, and more.
36. **TMDL Implementation Strategy** – may include, but is not necessarily limited to, an existing TMDL Action Plan, waste discharge requirements, and waivers of waste discharge requirements that have been adopted by the North Coast Water Board.
37. **Site-Specific Potential Effective Shade** – The shade equivalent to that provided by topography and potential vegetation conditions at a site<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>10</sup> See Findings D.2-9 and Conditions A.1-B.10 for project planning and enrollment requirements.

<sup>11</sup> For further discussion of site-specific potential effective shade, see the “Staff Report Supporting the Policy for the Implementation of the Water Quality Objectives for Temperature...”:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water\\_issues/programs/basin\\_plan/140516\\_temp/140327\\_Temp\\_Policy\\_Staff\\_Report\\_ADOPTED.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/water_issues/programs/basin_plan/140516_temp/140327_Temp_Policy_Staff_Report_ADOPTED.pdf).

38. **Waste** – Products or materials that enter or threaten to enter waters of the state that may adversely affect the condition of water quality or impact beneficial uses of the receiving waters. Waste is further defined in California Water Code section 13050<sup>12</sup> as “Sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal.”
39. **Waste Discharge Requirements** – Regulatory requirements imposed by the State Water Resources Control Board or a Regional Water Quality Control Board to regulate the discharge of waste from anthropogenic activities to waters of the state<sup>13</sup>.
40. **Watercourse** – Any location with a defined bed, bank, and channel where water naturally flows, such as rivers or streams. Under the Order there are three watercourse classifications as defined below:
- a. **Perennial Watercourse** – A watercourse that has flowing water year-round during a typical year. The water table is located above the stream bed for most of the year. Groundwater is the primary source of water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.
  - b. **Intermittent Watercourse** – A watercourse that has flowing water during certain times of the year, when groundwater provides water for stream flow. During dry periods, intermittent watercourses may not have flowing water. Runoff from rainfall is a supplemental source of water for stream flow.
  - c. **Ephemeral Watercourse** – A watercourse that has flowing water only during, and for a short duration after, precipitation events in a typical year. Ephemeral stream beds are located above the water table year-round. Groundwater is not a source of water for the stream. Runoff from rainfall or snowmelt are the primary sources of water for stream flow.
41. **Watershed Assessment and Recovery Program (WARP)** – The WARP is a program that establishes regulatory requirements in the Order and Monitoring and Reporting Program for the USFS, BLM, and NPS to advance the treatment

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<sup>12</sup> Water Code section 13050 may be reviewed here: [https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-water-code/division-7-water-quality/chapter-2-definitions/section-13050-definitions#:~:text=\(d\)%20%22Waste%22%20includes,nature%20prior%20to%2C%20and%20of](https://casetext.com/statute/california-codes/california-water-code/division-7-water-quality/chapter-2-definitions/section-13050-definitions#:~:text=(d)%20%22Waste%22%20includes,nature%20prior%20to%2C%20and%20of) or.

<sup>13</sup> Please see page 82 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act for further discussion of Waste Discharge Requirements: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws\\_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/laws_regulations/docs/portercologne.pdf).



of controllable sediment discharges sources over time. The WARP relies on a performance-based credit system developed for each Administrative Unit based on the water quality conditions and land management activities of its lands.

42. **Waters of the State** – Any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the State of California. Broadly includes all waters within California’s boundaries, whether private or public, including waters in both natural and artificial channels. Waters of the state encompass all Waters of the United States and more.
43. **Waters of the United States** – Oceans, rivers, streams, lakes, creeks, marshes, and wetlands considered "jurisdictional" under the Clean Water Act and are within the regulatory jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers.
44. **Water Quality** – The chemical, physical, biological, bacteriological, radiological, and other properties and characteristics of water which affect its beneficial uses.
45. **Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan)** – The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board’s primary regulatory and planning document, which designates or establishes all the following for the waters within a specified area:
  - a. beneficial uses of water to be protected;
  - b. water quality objectives to protect beneficial uses; and
  - c. implementation programs to achieve water quality objectives.
46. **Water Quality Objectives** – The limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics (e.g., sediment, turbidity, temperature, bacteria, etc.) which are established and required to reasonably protect beneficial uses of water, or the prevention of nuisance within a specific area, as described in the Basin Plan for the North Coast Region.
47. **Wetlands** – An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater, or shallow surface water, or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area’s vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, fens, and wet meadows, although the Water Boards also include streams, river, and lakes under the state wetland definition.
48. **Winter Period** – The period when prolonged or regular precipitation occurs and when saturated road conditions normally exist, or roads become inaccessible

due to wet weather or snow. There is no definitive date associated with the winter period as the timing may fluctuate depending on the geographic location, but in the North Coast Region, the winter period generally occurs from mid-October through mid-April.

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## II. ACRONYMS

1. **AOI** – Annual Operating Instructions
2. **BAER** – Burned Area Emergency Response
3. **BLM** – Bureau of Land Management
4. **BMP** – Best management practice
5. **CEQA** – California Environmental Quality Act
6. **CFR** – Code of Federal Regulations
7. **CSDS** – Controllable sediment discharge source
8. **CWA** – Federal Clean Water Act
9. **EA** – Environmental Assessment
10. **EIR** – Environmental Impact Report
11. **FERC** – Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
12. **FO** – Bureau of Land Management Field Office
13. **HUC** – Hydrologic Unit Code
14. **MRP** – Monitoring and Reporting Program
15. **NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act
16. **NF** – National Forest
17. **NM** – National Monument
18. **NOI** – Notice of Intent
19. **NOT** – Notice of Termination
20. **NP** – National Park
21. **NPDES** – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
22. **NPS** – National Park Service
23. **USFS** – United States Forest Service
24. **WARP** – Watershed Assessment and Recovery Program