

DRAFT Attachment G – Glossary

Key terms in italics throughout the general order are defined here for clarification.

1. **Access Route Construction**

Construction, reconstruction, restoration, improvements and decommissioning of access roads, ancillary spurs, watercourse crossings, and erosion control structures for the purpose of accessing utility infrastructure. Includes vegetation management activities for the purpose of creating an access route.

2. **Access Routes**

Roads, ancillary spurs, and skid trails established for the purpose of accessing utility infrastructure.

3. **Access Route Decommission**

Decommissioning refers to the process of stabilizing and restoring access routes in areas where vehicle travel is no longer intended. This involves removing or effectively disconnecting an existing road or watercourse crossing from the permanent road network (36 CFR 212.1 and FSM 7705 – Transportation System) and restoring the area to a more natural state. Decommissioning activities may include soil stabilization, watercourse crossing removal or stabilization, and restoration of the area's natural drainage patterns.

4. **Access Route Maintenance**

Activities that do not require substantial change to the road prism to maintain stable operating surfaces, functioning drainage facilities and structures, and stable cutbanks and fill slopes. Examples of road maintenance may include rocking a road surface; localized shaping or outsloping; installation and maintenance of rolling and critical dips; restoring functional capacity of inboard ditches, cross drains, or culverts; and repairing water bars.

5. **Class I watercourse**

Watercourses serving as domestic water supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or where fish are always or seasonally present onsite, including habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.

6. **Class II watercourse**

Watercourses where fish are always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream, and/or watercourses which contain aquatic habitat for non-fish aquatic species.

7. Compatible Vegetation

Plant species that, at maturity, will not grow to a height that encroaches the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, [California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95, Rule 35 and PRC 4293](https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_rule_35.html)

(https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/gos/GO95/go_95_rule_35.html), and other regulatory clearance standards.

8. Emergency

A sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services. "Emergency" includes such occurrences as fire, flood, earthquake, or other soil or geologic movements, as well as such occurrences as riot, accident, or sabotage (Ca. Pub. Res. Code § 21060.3).

9. Erosion Hazard Rating (EHR)

A calculated measure of the susceptibility of soils to erosion by raindrop impact and surface runoff. According to the California Forest Practice Rules, EHR is calculated using a defined field methodology, and the resulting rating (low, moderate, extreme) influences subsequent land management practices which can be employed.

10. Erodibility K Factor

The K factor is the soil erodibility factor used in the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). The K factor represents the combination of detachability of the soil, runoff potential of the soil, and the transportability of the sediment eroded from the soil. For the purposes of this General Order, the whole soil K factor value should be used.

11. Hazardous Material

Any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment, including any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (Health & Safety Code, Section 25501).

12. Hydrologic Disconnection

The removal of direct routes of drainage or overland flow of access route runoff or other disturbed area capable of capturing and concentrating overland flow to a water of the state. The goal of hydrologic disconnection is to minimize sediment delivery and hydrologic change derived from road runoff being routed to a watercourse. Hydrologic disconnection is achieved by creating a road surface and drainage configuration that directs water to discharge from the road in a location where it is unlikely to directly flow into a watercourse.

13. Outsloping

Shaping the road surface to drain to the outside edge of the road.

14. Precipitation Event

Precipitation event is any weather pattern that results in precipitation (rain, snow, sleet, or hail).

15. Project Activity

Project Description (General Order Section III), activities performed for the purpose of wildfire mitigation, response, and cleanup, and electric utility infrastructure operations and maintenance activities that are not directly related to wildfire mitigation but have the same potential effects on water quality as wildfire mitigation activities.

16. Project Area

The location where Project Activities occur, including storage areas and access routes.

17. Rolling Dip

Shallow, rounded dip in the road where road grade reverses for a short distance and surface runoff is directed in the dip or trough to the outside or inside of the road.

18. Saturated Soils

Soil and/or surface material pore spaces are filled with water to such an extent that runoff is likely to occur. Indicators of saturated soil conditions may include, but are not limited to: (1) areas of ponded water, (2) pumping of fines from the soil or access route surfacing material during the project, (3) loss of bearing strength resulting in the deflection of soil or access route surfaces under a load, such as the creation of wheel ruts, (4) spinning or churning of wheels or tracks that produces a wet slurry, or (5) inadequate traction without blading wet soil or surfacing materials.

19. Seasonal Deactivation

Temporary deactivation of a seasonal access route to prevent the active use of the road and disconnect surface drainage, install access route drainage features (e.g., waterbreaks, rolling dips, outsloping), stabilize soils, and prevent vehicle travel during the rainy season.

20. Slash

Branches, limbs, or bark and split products debris left on the ground as a result of vegetation management activities.

21. Soil Disturbance

Activities that alter underlying soil at a site including but not limited to clearing and grubbing of vegetation, grading, excavating, skidding, contouring, ripping of land, and stockpiling of fill materials on unpaved surfaces. Vegetation management activities are not considered soil disturbing activities except where it includes the removal of tree roots or where equipment travel has created unconsolidated soil, ruts, over-steepened areas, or other conditions which have potential to concentrate runoff and deliver sediment to waters of the state.

22. Stabilized

Exposed soils and unstable areas that have been treated in such a manner that there is low risk of such soils discharging to a water of the state via runoff, slumping, or wind erosion. Appropriate treatment varies and can include, but is not limited to: cover with mulch (e.g., weed-free straw, slash, woodchips); relocation of excess material to an area that is stable, well drained, isolated from waters of the state, and where wind exposure is limited; sloping back excess material to a stable angle; hydroseeding, seeding and/or planting; and/or temporary construction erosion control measures (e.g., fiber rolls, silt fences, erosion control blankets, tarps).

23. Urban Area

Urban areas represent densely developed territory, and encompass residential, commercial, and other nonresidential urban land uses. Each urban area must encompass at least 2,000 housing units or at least 5,000 people. (2020 U.S. Census Bureau).

24. Vegetation Management Waste

Debris generated by vegetation management including woodchips, slash, trimmings, prunings, bark, limbs, tree trunks, roots or stumps; sediment, rocks, sand, silt, clay, and other earthen materials; and any other organic or inorganic waste produced by vegetation management activities covered under this order.

25. Waterbreak

Shallow, drivable ditch excavated at an angle across a road or trail to drain surface runoff.