

### **3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

The environmental consequences of constructing and operating the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline Project (Project) would vary in duration and significance. Four levels of impact duration were considered: temporary, short term, long term, and permanent. Temporary impacts generally occur during construction, with the resources returning to pre-construction conditions almost immediately afterward. Short-term impacts could continue for approximately 3 years following construction. Impacts were considered long term if the resources would require more than 3 years to recover. Permanent impacts would occur as a result of activities that modify resources to the extent that they would not return to pre-construction conditions during the life of the proposed Project, such as with construction of aboveground structures. An impact resulting in a substantial adverse change in the environment would be considered significant.

This section discusses the affected environment, construction and operations impacts, and mitigation for each affected resource. Keystone has indicated that it would implement certain measures to reduce environmental impacts. These measures have been evaluated and additional measures that might be necessary to further reduce impacts are recommended.

Conclusions in this EIS are based on the analysis of environmental impacts and the following assumptions:

- Keystone would comply with all applicable laws and regulations;
- The proposed facilities would be constructed as described in Section 2.0 of this EIS;
- Keystone would implement the mitigation measures identified in its Environmental Report (Keystone, 2008) and supplemental filings to DOS;
- Keystone would implement the environmental specifications and water quality protection requirements mandated by MDEQ for Montana as part of the MFSA certification process and presented in Attachments 1 and 2 to Appendix I; and
- Keystone would implement the additional mitigation measures presented in this EIS.

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