

Appendix A Glossary of Terms

Alien species. A species of plant or animal that is not native to Midway. [Same as introduced, nonnative, or exotic.]

Biological diversity or biodiversity. The full range of variety and variability within and among living organisms and the ecological complexes in which they occur. Biological diversity encompasses ecosystem processes, species diversity, and genetic variation.

Compatible use. A proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of the national wildlife refuge that, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP). A document that describes the desired future conditions of a refuge or planning unit and provides long-range guidance and management direction to achieve the purposes of the refuge; helps fulfill the mission of the Refuge System; maintains and, where appropriate, restores the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; helps achieve the goals of the National Wildlife Preservation System; and meets other mandates.

Coral. A general term used to describe a group of benthic cnidarians; usually indicates the presence of a calcium carbonate skeleton secreted by the animal.

Coral reef. A wave-resistant structure resulting from skeletal deposition and cementation of hermatypic corals, calcareous algae, and other calcium carbonate-secreting organisms.

Critical habitat. The specific areas designated for a threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act on which are found those physical or biological features that are essential to the conservation of the species and that may require special management considerations or protection.

Ecosystem. An assemblage of animals and plants and its interaction with the environment.

Ecotourism. Tourism specifically targeted at gaining an increased understanding and appreciation for an area's natural resources.

Endangered species. A species officially recognized by Federal agencies to be in immediate danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endemic species. A species occurring naturally in a particular locality. Many of Hawaii's native plants and animals are endemic to the Hawaiian Islands. Some endemic species are restricted to a single island, mountain range, or even gulch.

Endemism. The extent to which the plants and animals of a region are unique to that region.

Environment. The sum of all external conditions and influences affecting the development and life of organisms.

Environmental assessment. A concise public document, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, that briefly discusses the purpose and need for an action, alternatives to such action, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of impacts to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact.

Extinct species. Those species no longer known to exist after repeated search.

Extirpation. Local extinction: a species or subspecies disappearing from a locality or region without becoming extinct throughout its range.

Fauna. The animal life of an area.

Feral. Formerly domesticated animals reverted to the wild state or living in wild habitat.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). A document prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, supported by an environmental assessment, that briefly presents why a Federal action will have no significant effect on the human environment and for which an environmental impact statement will not be prepared.

Flora. The plant life of an area.

Goal. A descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units.

Habitat. The physical environment in which a plant or animal lives.

Indigenous species. A species that occurs naturally at a location, but that has a wider occurrence outside of that location.

Midway Atoll Special Management Area. The area of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument surrounding Midway Atoll out to a distance of 12 nautical miles, established for the enhanced management, protection, and preservation of monument wildlife and historical resources.

National Wildlife Refuge System. All lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, coordination areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, including those that are threatened with extinction, as determined in writing by the Director or so directed by Presidential or Secretarial order.

Native species. A species that occurs naturally in a particular locality. Includes endemic and indigenous species.

Natural community. An assemblage of plants and animals occurring together at a site. Because of unique environmental requirements and direct and indirect interactions among species, natural communities can be quite distinctive. Classification of native natural communities are generally based on moisture regime, canopy closure and height, and dominant species and constituent species. See Wagner *et al.* (1990) for a formal summary of the Hawaiian Natural Community Classification. "Native" natural communities are based on a composition of at least 60 percent native plants. Nonnative natural communities are based on a composition of only 40 percent native plants.

Naturalized species. Refers to introduced species that are now thoroughly established and spreading in the wild without help by humans.

Objective. A concise statement of what we want to achieve, how much we want to achieve, when and where we want to achieve it, and who is responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies, monitoring refuge accomplishments, and evaluating the success of strategies.

Purposes of the refuge. The purposes specified in or derived from the law, proclamation, executive order, agreement, public land order, donation document, or administrative memorandum establishing, authorizing, or expanding a refuge, refuge unit, or refuge subunit.

Rare species. A species that occurs in such small numbers, throughout its range, that it may become threatened with extinction if its environment worsens.

Species. A taxonomic category ranking immediately below a genus and including closely related, morphologically similar individuals which actually or potentially interbreed.

Step-down management plan. A plan that provides specific guidance on management subjects (e.g., habitat, visitor services, fire, safety) or groups of related subjects. It describes strategies and implementation schedules for meeting CCP goals and objectives.

Strategy. A specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives.

Subspecies (ssp.). A geographically defined grouping of local populations which differs taxonomically from similar subdivisions of species.

Telepresence - the experience of being fully present at a live real world location remote from one's own physical location created through the use of technology such as streaming media, web cams, and high speed Internet links.

Threatened species. A species officially recognized by Federal or State agencies as likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Transient. A person coming to Midway Atoll for official duties, e.g., a refuge employee, co-trustee staff, Coast Guard or other law enforcement entities, contractors, researchers, other federal or state employees, or other permitted personnel.

Unincorporated territory. A United States insular area in which the United States Congress has determined that only selected parts of the United States Constitution apply.

Vision statement. A concise statement of what the planning unit should be, or what we hope to do, based primarily upon the Refuge System mission and specific refuge purposes, and other mandates.

Visitor. For the purposes of this document, a visitor is a wildlife-dependent recreational or special ocean use visitor to Midway Atoll as approved under this visitor services plan. A visitor does not include refuge or monument co-trustee staffers performing official duties, researchers, refuge contractors, or other entities accessing Midway under monument conservation and management or research permits.

Visitor Services Plan (VSP). A step-down management plan containing specific strategies formulated to meet the visitor services goals and objectives of the refuge's CCP that integrates wildlife-dependent and other recreational uses on a refuge or group of refuges.

Wildlife. Plant and animal components of the environment.

Wildlife-dependent recreation. A use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation. Compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses are the priority general public uses of the Refuge System.