

Appendix H: Glossary of Terms and Abbreviations Used

Alternatives: Different sets of objectives and strategies or means of achieving refuge purposes and goals, helping fulfill the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS, Refuge System) mission, and resolving issues. A reasonable way to fix an identified problem or satisfy a stated need [40 CFR 1500.2 (cf. “management alternative”)].

Anadromous fish: Fish species that ascend rivers from the sea for breeding, such as Chinook salmon.

Biological Integrity: Biotic composition, structure and functioning at genetic, organism and community levels comparable with historic conditions, including the natural biological processes that shape genomes, organisms and communities.

Candidate species/Candidate for listing: Species for which there is sufficient information on file about their biological vulnerability and threats to propose listing them as threatened or endangered.

Compatible Use: A wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other proposed or existing use on a refuge that will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes of the refuge or the Refuge System mission.

Compatibility Determination: A document that assesses whether or not a use is compatible with the National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge) purpose.

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 Wilderness Preservation System; and meets other mandates.

Conceptual Management Plan (CMP): An overview of how the land will be managed until a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the refuge is completed. It does not provide extensive detail related to management or show exactly where public use facilities would be located.

Conservation: Managing natural resources to prevent loss or waste. Management actions may include preservation, restoration, and enhancement.

Conservation easement: A non-possessory interest in real property owned by another, imposing limitations or affirmative obligations with the purpose of returning or protecting the property’s conservation values.

Cooperative agreement: A legal instrument reflecting a relationship between the Federal Government and a recipient when the principle purpose is to fund a project to support or stimulate activities that are not for the direct benefit or use of the Federal Government but instead for a public purpose that the government participates substantially in.

Corridor: Areas in a landscape that contain and connect natural areas, open spaces and scenic or other resources. They often lie along streams, rivers, or other natural features.

Cultural resources: The collective evidence of the past activities and accomplishments of people such as the remains of sites, structures, or objects used by people in the past; typically greater than 50 years old.

Endangered species: A plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Enhance: Increasing the level or values provided by the action.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A systematic analysis to determine if proposed federal actions would result in a “significant effect on the quality of the human environment” thereby requiring either the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or a determination of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

Environmental education: Curriculum-based education aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable about the environment and its associated problems, aware of how to help solve those problems, and motivated to work toward solving them.

Federal land: Public land owned by the Federal Government, including national forests, national parks, and national wildlife refuges.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Supported by an environmental assessment, a document that briefly presents why a federal action will have no significant effect on the human environment, and for which an Environmental Impact Statement, therefore, will not be prepared [40 CFR 1508.13].

Full acquisition: The acquisition of most or all of the rights to a tract of land; a total transfer of property rights with the formal conveyance of a title. While a full acquisition involves most rights to a property, certain rights may be reserved or not purchased, including water rights, mineral rights, or use reservation (e.g., the ability to continue using the land for a specified time period, such as the remainder of the owner’s life).

Groundwater: Water located beneath the ground surface in soil pore spaces and in the fractures of rock formations.

Interpretation: A process that aims to reveal meanings and relationships through the use of original objects by firsthand experience of illustrative media rather than simply to communicate factual information. It typically involves visitor observation of onsite presentations by expert guides about biological, ecological, or cultural topics pertinent to the site or the Refuge System in general.

Invasive plant species: A non-native plant to the ecosystem that lacks natural controls and tends to aggressively dominate the plant community, often forming extensive mono-cultures

Land Protection Plan (LPP): A document that identifies and prioritizes lands for potential Service acquisition from willing landowners, and describes other methods of providing protection.

Migrating neotropical birds: Birds that breed in Canada and the United States during the Northern Hemispheric summer and spend the Northern Hemispheric winter in Mexico, Central America, South America, or the Caribbean Islands.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): Requires all federal agencies to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and use public participation in planning and implementing environmental actions.

National Wildlife Refuge (NWR, refuge): A designated area of land or water or an interest in land or water within the Refuge System, such as refuges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas under Service jurisdiction for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife and plant resources.

National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS, 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, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources.

Native plant: A plant that has grown in the region since the last glaciation and occurred here before European settlement.

Non-native species: A plant or animal species not native to the area and introduced intentionally or unintentionally.

Non-priority public use: Any use other than a compatible wildlife-dependent recreational use.

Partnership: A contract or agreement among two or more individuals, groups of individuals, organizations, or agencies in which each agrees to furnish capital or some service in kind (e.g., labor) for a mutually beneficial enterprise.

Priority public use: Wildlife-dependent recreational uses involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation, which receive priority consideration in refuge planning and management.

Public involvement: Offering an opportunity to interested individuals and organizations potentially affected by actions or policies to become informed and provide input. Public input is thoroughly studied and given thoughtful consideration in shaping decisions about managing refuges.

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.” (601 FW 1)

Refuge Revenue Sharing: Compensation to local governments for foregone tax revenues from land acquired by the Service. The amount of the annual payment depends on the final Congressional budget appropriations for the Service for that year.

Restoration: Recreating environmental conditions similar those when there was less human influence on the landscape.

Riparian: Of or relating to land lying immediately adjacent to a water body and having specific characteristics of that area, such as vegetation influenced by that water body.

Scoping: A process for identifying the “scope of issues” to be addressed in planning refuge activities.

Species of special concern: A species or population, which warrants special protection, recognition, or consideration because it has an inherent significant vulnerability to habitat modification, environmental alteration, human disturbance, or substantial human exploration that, in the foreseeable future, may result in its becoming threatened.

Surface water: Water collecting on the ground or in a stream, river, lake, wetland, or ocean.

Urban refuge: Acquired lands and waters in or adjacent to metropolitan statistical areas (over 100,000 people) to protect fish and wildlife resources and habitats that will provide the public wildlife-oriented recreation, education, and interpretation opportunities.

Water table: The level at which the subsurface materials that are saturated with groundwater in a given vicinity.

Wetland: Areas such as lakes, marshes, ponds, swamps, or streams that are inundated by surface or groundwater long enough to support plants and animals that require saturated or seasonally saturated soils.

Wildfire: Unplanned ignition of a wildland fire (such as a fire caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires) and escaped prescribed fires.

Wildlife-dependent recreational use: “A use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation.” (605 FW 1). These are the six priority public uses of the Refuge System Administration Act of 1966, as amended. Wildlife-dependent recreational uses, other than the six priority public uses, are those that depend on the presence of wildlife.

Abbreviations Used

ARPA: Archaeological Resources Protection Act
CCP: Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CMP: Conceptual Management Plan
EA: Environmental Assessment
EE: Environmental Education
ESA: Endangered Species Act of 1973
FONSI: Finding of no significant impact
FTE: Full-time employee
FWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
IBA: Important Bird Area
NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act
NWMD: Northeastern Morainal Natural Division
NRCS: National Resource Conservation Service
NWR: National Wildlife Refuge
NWRS: National Wildlife Refuge System
Service: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
SEWRPC: Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
SGCN: Species of Greatest Conservation Need
SHPO: State Historical Preservation Office
Refuge System: National Wildlife Refuge System
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
TPL: The Trust for Public Land
USFWS: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service