

Appendix H: Glossary

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<i>Block Size</i>	Block size is the term used to describe the size of a contiguous piece of wildlife habitat. A block may have more than one kind of habitat; for example, grassland and wetlands, but not developments such as plowed agricultural fields. A large block size for grassland nesting birds could be 2,000 to 10,000 acres depending on the species of bird.
<i>Brood parasites</i>	In the prairie, the main brood parasite of grassland birds is the cowbird. Female cowbirds do not build their own nest, they lay eggs in the nests of other birds. Often the young cowbirds will push other nestlings from the nest and will dominate the time and care of the foster parents. Cowbirds are attracted to woodlands and have the greatest impact on grassland birds that nest near woodlots.
<i>Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)</i>	The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 requires that each refuge must be managed in accordance with an approved CCP that will guide management decisions and set forth strategies for achieving refuge purposes and contributing to the mission of the Refuge System.
<i>Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)</i>	A U.S. Department of Agriculture program that takes highly erodible or environmentally sensitive cropland out of production for 10 to 15 years. Farmers receive annual rental payments and most of the erodible land is planted in perennial grasses and grass/legume mixtures.
<i>Cool-season grass</i>	Grass species that green early in the spring and flower before July. Often these plants are dormant during the heat of the summer. Most cool-season grasses are not native to the prairie ecosystem.
<i>Edge effects</i>	When ground nesting birds nest near habitat edges, their chances for success are reduced because the nest is easy to locate for predators and nest parasites. Predators such as hawks, fox, skunk, and raccoon and nest parasites such as cowbirds, hunt along habitat edges. This “edge effect” has been observed at the interface of woodlands and grasslands, grasslands and water, and roads and grasslands.

<i>Federal Trust Species</i>	Species that cross state and international boundaries or are afforded national protection through various laws and treaties, such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act. The well-being of waterfowl populations is a classic Federal trust responsibility and the main purpose for the creation of the Small Wetland Acquisition Program in the 1960s.
<i>Fragmentation</i>	The process by which habitats are broken up into smaller, isolated parcels dominated by human activity is called habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation reduces an ecosystem's biological diversity because small, isolated patches of habitat have fewer species than larger, less isolated patches. In the prairie grasslands, fragmentation occurred when the prairie was converted to agriculture.
<i>Forbs</i>	Flowering plants that are not grass-species, usually they are broad-leaved, green plants with attractive flowers.
<i>Goal</i>	For the purpose of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, "goals" are defined as broad, open-ended statements of desired future conditions (vision) that convey a purpose, but not measurable units. These are directional statements for a specific program, often qualitative and expressed in terms of benefits. They have been described as "where the rubber meets the sky."
<i>Grassland</i>	Habitat that is dominated by grass, but may contain hundreds of other species of plants such as flowering asters and legumes. "Grassland" is a term that is used to describe planted cover, as well as natural virgin prairie. The term does not imply that the habitat is natural.
<i>Lucustrine Wetland</i>	Deep water lakes and reservoirs. The Lucustrine System is a deepwater dominated system, and includes standing waterbodies like lakes, reservoirs, and deep ponds.
<i>Mesic (dry-mesic, wet-mesic)</i>	This term is used to describe species that occur where there is an average level of moisture within a habitat. The land is not too dry or too wet. Usually, it refers to the nature of the entire area; for example, mesic prairie.
<i>Objective</i>	For the purpose the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the term, "objective" is defined as, a concise statement of what will be achieved (specificity), how much will be achieved (quantified), when it will be achieved (time bound), and who is responsible for the

	work (accountability). Objectives are where the rubber meets the road.
<i>Project</i>	For the purpose of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the term, “project” is defined as a work plan proposal that shows budget and staff time needed to implement a strategy.
<i>Pulustrine Wetland</i>	Shallow water wetlands. The Pulustrine System encompasses the vast majority of the country’s inland marshes, bogs and swamps and does not include any deepwater habitat.
<i>Riverine</i>	The Riverine System is limited to freshwater river and stream channels and is mainly a deepwater habitat system.
<i>Refuge Operation Needs System (RONS)</i>	This is the system that is used within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to identify projects to be included for possible future funding. When money becomes available from a variety of sources, it can be used to address identified RONS projects.
<i>Strategy</i>	For the purpose of the Comprehensive Conservation Plan, the term, “strategy” is defined as a solution or approach to achieving an objective (more detailed and often includes the how).
<i>Warm-season grass</i>	Grass species that green later in the spring, often reaching their peak growth in the warm summer months and flower in July. Many native bunch grass species such as big-blue stem and little-blue stem are warm season grasses.
<i>Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA)</i>	Upland grasslands and wetlands that are purchased by the Federal government to provide nesting habitat for waterfowl and hunting areas for waterfowl and upland game hunters.
<i>Waterfowl</i>	The group of water birds, known scientifically as Anseriformes, including ducks, geese and swans. Many state hunting regulations also refer to cormorants which are not truly a member of the waterfowl group. Cranes, grebes, herons and pelicans are also not waterfowl.
<i>Wetland</i>	Wetlands are lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. For the purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: 1) at least periodically, the land

supports predominantly hydrophytes (water plants); 2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and 3) the substrate is nonsoil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year (Cowardin, et al. 1979).

*Wetland Management
Districts (District)*

The Federal administrative unit that is charged with acquiring, overseeing and managing the Waterfowl Production Areas and easements within a specified group of counties. Most Districts are large, covering several counties.