

Glossary and Acronyms



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Finns Point Rear Range Light

Glossary and Acronyms

GLOSSARY

accessibility	the state or quality of being easily approached or entered, particularly as it relates to complying with the Americans With Disabilities Act.
adaptive management	<p>focuses on learning and adapting, through partnerships of managers, scientists, and other stakeholders who learn together how to create and maintain sustainable ecosystems.</p> <p>Adaptive management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • helps science managers maintain flexibility in their decisions, knowing that uncertainties exist and provides managers the latitude to change direction • will improve understanding of ecological systems to achieve management objectives • is about taking action to improve progress towards desired outcomes. <p>(source: Williams, B. K., R. C. Szaro, and C. D. Shapiro. 2007. Adaptive Management: The U.S. Department of the Interior Technical Guide. Adaptive Management Working Group, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, DC.)</p>
aggregate	many parts considered together as a whole.
alternative	a reasonable way to fix an identified problem or satisfy a stated need [40 CFR 1500.2 (cf. “management alternative”).]
appropriate use	<p>a proposed or existing use on a refuge that meets at least one of the following three conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the use is a wildlife-dependent one; 2. the use contributes to fulfilling the refuge purpose(s), the Refuge System mission, or goals or objectives described in a refuge management plan approved after October 9, 1997, the date the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act was signed into law; or, 3. the use has been determined appropriate as specified in section 1.11 of that act.
approved acquisition boundary	a project boundary that the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service approves upon completion of the planning and environmental compliance process. An approved acquisition boundary only designates those lands which the Service has authority to acquire or manage through various agreements. The approval of an acquisition boundary does not grant the Service jurisdiction or control over lands within the boundary, and it does not make lands within the refuge boundary part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. Lands do not become part of the Refuge System until the Service buys them or they are placed under an agreement that provides for their management as part of the System.
anadromous fish	from the Greek, literally “up-running”; fish that spend a large portion of their life cycle in the ocean and return to freshwater to breed.
aquatic	growing in, living in, or dependent upon water.

avian	of or having to do with birds.
basin	the land surrounding and draining into a water body (cf. “watershed”).
best management practices	land management practices that produce desired results. [N.b. Usually describing forestry or agricultural practices effective in reducing non-point source pollution, like reseeding skidder trails or not storing manure in a flood plain. In their broader sense, practices that benefit target species.]
biological diversity or biodiversity	the variety of life and its processes and includes the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.
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.
biota	the plant and animal life of a region.
breeding habitat	habitat used by migratory birds or other animals during the breeding season.
candidate species	plants and animals for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities. (Source: http://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/candidate_species.pdf , accessed June 2011).
canopy	the layer of foliage formed by the crowns of trees in a stand. For stands with trees of different heights, foresters often distinguish among the upper, middle and lower canopy layers. These represent foliage on tall, medium, and short trees. The uppermost layers are called the overstory.
community	the locality in which a group of people resides and shares the same government.
community type	a particular assemblage of plants and animals, named for its dominant characteristic.
compatibility determination	a required determination for wildlife-dependent recreational uses or any other public uses of a refuge.

compatible use	“The term ‘compatible use’ means a wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a refuge that, in the sound professional judgment of the Director, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the System or the purposes of the refuge.”—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 [Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1253]
Comprehensive Conservation Plan	mandated by the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act, a document that provides a description of the desired future conditions and long-range guidance for the project leader to accomplish purposes of the refuge system and the refuge. CCPs establish management direction to achieve refuge purposes. [P.L. 105-57; FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4]
concern	cf. “issue.”
conservation	managing natural resources to prevent loss or waste. [N.b. Management actions may include preservation, restoration, and enhancement.]
conservation agreement	a written agreement among two or more parties for the purpose of ensuring the survival and welfare of unlisted species of fish and wildlife or their habitats or to achieve other specified conservation goals. Participants voluntarily commit to specific actions that will remove or reduce threats to those species.
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.
conservation status	assessment of the status of ecological processes and of the viability of species or populations in an ecoregion.
consultation	a type of stakeholder involvement in which decision makers ask stakeholders to comment on proposed decisions or actions.
cooperative agreement	a usually long-term habitat protection action, which can be modified by either party, in which no property rights are acquired. Lands under a cooperative agreement do not necessarily become part of the National Wildlife Refuge System.
critical habitat	according to U.S. Federal law, the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend.
database	a collection of data arranged for ease and speed of analysis and retrieval, usually computerized.

dbh	(diameter at breast height) — the diameter of the stem of tree measure at breast height (usually 4.5 feet above the ground). The term is commonly used by foresters to describe tree size.
degradation	the loss of native species and processes due to human activities such that only certain components of the original biodiversity persist, often including significantly altered natural communities.
desired future condition	the qualities of an ecosystem or its components that an organization seeks to develop through its decisions and actions.
disturbance	any relatively discrete event in time that disrupts ecosystem, community, or population structure and changes resources, substrate availability, or the physical environment.
donation	a citizen or group may wish to give land or interests in land to the Service for the benefit of wildlife. Aside from the cost factor, these acquisitions are no different than any other means of land acquisition. Gifts and donations have the same planning requirements as purchases.
easement	a non-possessory interest in real property that permits the holder to use another's land for a specified purpose. It may also impose limitations or affirmative obligations on the holder of the land subject to the easement. An agreement by which landowners give up or sell one of the rights on their property. [e.g., landowners may donate rights-of-way across their properties to allow community members access to a river (cf. "conservation easement").]
ecological integrity	native species populations in their historic variety and numbers naturally interacting in naturally structured biotic communities. For communities, integrity is governed by demographics of component species, intactness of landscape-level ecological processes (e.g., natural fire regime), and intactness of internal community processes (e.g., pollination).
ecological processes	a complex mix of interactions among animals, plants, and their environment that ensures maintenance of an ecosystem's full range of biodiversity. Examples include population and predator-prey dynamics, pollination and seed dispersal, nutrient cycling, migration, and dispersal.
ecological system	dynamic assemblages of communities that occur together on the landscape at some spatial scale of resolution, are tied together by similar ecological processes, and form a cohesive, distinguishable unit on the ground. Examples are spruce-fir forest, Great Lakes dune and swale complex, Mojave desert riparian shrublands.

ecoregion	an area defined by a combination of biological, social, and geographic criteria, rather than geopolitical considerations; generally, a system of related, interconnected ecosystems.
ecosystem	a natural community of organisms interacting with its physical environment, regarded as a unit.
emergent wetland	wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous plants.
endangered species	a federally or state listed protected species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.
environment	the sum total of all biological, chemical, and physical factors to which organisms are exposed.
Environmental Assessment (EA)	a public document that discusses the purpose and need for an action, its alternatives, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of its impacts to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or a finding of no significant impact (q.v.) [cf. 40 CFR 1508.9].
environmental education	curriculum-based education aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable about the biophysical environment and its associated problems, aware of how to help solve those problems, and motivated to work toward solving them.
environmental health	the composition, structure, and functioning of soil, water, air, and other abiotic features comparable with historic conditions, including the natural abiotic processes that shape the environment.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	a detailed, written analysis of the environmental impacts of a proposed action, adverse effects of the project that cannot be avoided, alternative courses of action, short-term uses of the environment versus the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity, and any irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources [cf. 40 CFR 1508.11].
evaluation	examination of how an organization's plans and actions have turned out — and adjusting them for the future.
exotic species	a species that is not native to an area and has been introduced intentionally or unintentionally by humans; not all exotics become successfully established.

extinction	the termination of any lineage of organisms, from subspecies to species and higher taxonomic categories from genera to phyla. Extinction can be local, in which one or more populations of a species or other unit vanish but others survive elsewhere, or total (global), in which all the populations vanish (Wilson 1992).
fauna	all animal life associated with a given habitat, country, area or period.
Federal land	public land owned by the Federal Government, including national forests, national parks, and national wildlife refuges.
federally listed species	a species listed either as endangered, threatened, or a species at risk (formerly, a “candidate species”) under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.
fee-title 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 fee-title 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).
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].
fire regime	the characteristic frequency, intensity, and spatial distribution of natural fires within a given ecoregion or habitat.
floodplain	flat or nearly flat land that may be submerged by floodwaters; a plain built up or in the process of being built up by stream deposition.
flora	all the plants found in a particular place.
flyway	any one of several established migration routes of birds.
focal species	a species that is indicative of particular conditions in a system (ranging from natural to degraded) and used as a surrogate measure for other species of particular conditions. An element of biodiversity selected as a focus for conservation planning or action. The two principal types of targets in Conservancy planning projects are species and ecological communities.

focus areas	cf. “special focus areas.”
forested land	land dominated by trees. [For impacts analysis in CCP’s, we assume all forested land has the potential for occasional harvesting; we assume forested land owned by timber companies is harvested on a more intensive, regular schedule.]
fragmentation	the disruption of extensive habitats into isolated and small patches. Fragmentation has two negative components for biota: the loss of total habitat area and the creation of smaller, more isolated patches of habitat remaining.
geographic information system	(GIS) a computerized system to compile, store, analyze and display geographically referenced information [e.g., GIS can overlay multiple sets of information on the distribution of a variety of biological and physical features.]
groundwater	water in the ground that is in the zone of saturation, from which wells and springs and groundwater runoff are supplied.
habitat	the place or type of site where species and species assemblages are typically found and/or successfully reproduce. [N.b. An organism’s habitat must provide all of the basic requirements for life, and should be free of harmful contaminants.]
habitat conservation	protecting an animal or plant habitat to ensure that the use of that habitat by the animal or plant is not altered or reduced.
historic conditions	the composition, structure, and functioning of ecosystems resulting from natural processes that we believe, based on sound professional judgment, were present prior to substantial human-related changes to the landscape.
hydrology	the science of waters of the earth: their occurrences, distributions, and circulations; their physical and chemical properties; and their reactions with the environment, including living beings.
impoundment	a body of water, such as a pond, confined by a dam, dike, floodgate, or other barrier, which is used to collect and store water for future use.
indigenous	native to an area.

indigenous species	a species that, other than a result as an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in a particular ecosystem.
interjurisdictional fish	populations of fish that are managed by two or more states or national or Tribal governments because of the scope of their geographic distributions or migrations.
invasive species	an alien species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
inventory	a list of all the assets and liabilities of an organization, including physical, financial, personnel, and procedural aspects.
invertebrate	any animal lacking a backbone or bony segment that encloses the central nerve cord.
issue	any unsettled matter that requires a management decision. [e.g., a Service initiative, an opportunity, a management problem, a threat to the resources of the unit, a conflict in uses, a public concern, or the presence of an undesirable resource condition.] [N.b. A CCP should document, describe, and analyze issues even if they cannot be resolved during the planning process (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4).]
Land Protection Plan	(LPP) a document that identifies and prioritizes lands for potential Service acquisition from a willing seller and also describes other methods of providing protection. Landowners within project boundaries will find this document, which is released with environmental assessments, most useful.
Land trusts	organizations dedicated to conserving land by purchase, donation, or conservation easement from landowners.
landform	the physical shape of the land reflecting geologic structure and processes of geomorphology that have sculpted the structure.
landscape	a heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystems that are repeated in similar form throughout.

large patch	communities that form large areas of interrupted cover. Individual occurrences of this community type typically range in size from 50 to 2,000 hectares. Large patch communities are associated with environmental conditions that are more specific than those of matrix communities, and that are less common or less extensive in the landscape. Like matrix communities, large-patch communities are also influenced by large-scale processes, but these tend to be modified by specific site features that influence the community.
long-term protection	mechanisms like fee title acquisition, conservation easements, or binding agreements with landowners that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintaining species populations over the long term.
management alternative	a set of objectives and the strategies needed to accomplish each objective. [FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4]
management concern	cf. “issue.”
management plan	a plan that guides future land management practices on a tract. [N.b. In the context of an environmental impact statement, management plans may be designed to produce additional wildlife habitat along with primary products like timber or agricultural crops (cf. “cooperative agreement”).]
management strategy	a general approach to meeting unit objectives. [N.b. A strategy may be broad, or it may be detailed enough to guide implementation through specific actions, tasks, and projects (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4).]
marshlands	areas interspersed with open water, emergent vegetation (hydrophytes), and terrestrial vegetation (phreatophytes).
mitigation	actions to compensate for the negative effects of a particular project. [E.g., wetland mitigation usually restores or enhances a previously damaged wetland or creates a new wetland].
mosaic	an interconnected patchwork of distinct vegetation types.
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. [Federal agencies must integrate NEPA with other planning requirements, and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision-making (cf. 40CFR1500).]

National Wildlife Refuge System	(Refuge System) all lands and waters and interests therein administered by the Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas managed to preserve a national network for the conservation and management of fish, wildlife, and plant resources of the United States, for the benefit of present and future generations (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act, 16 U.S.C. 668dd).
native	a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in a particular ecosystem.
native plant	a plant that has grown in the region since the last glaciation, and occurred before European settlement.
Neotropical migrant	birds, bats, or invertebrates that seasonally migrate between the Nearctic and Neotropics.
non-consumptive, wildlife-oriented recreation	wildlife observation and photography and environmental education and interpretation (cf. “wildlife-oriented recreation”).
nonnative species	See “exotic species.”
non-point source pollution	a diffuse form of water quality degradation in which wastes are not released at one specific, identifiable point but from a number of points that are spread out and difficult to identify and control.
nonpoint source	a diffuse form of water quality degradation produced by erosion of land that causes sedimentation of streams, eutrophication from nutrients and pesticides used in agricultural and silvicultural practices, and acid rain resulting from burning fuels that contain sulfur.
objective	cf. “unit objective.”
partnership	a contract or agreement among two or more individuals, groups of individuals, organizations, or agencies, in which each agrees to furnish a part of the capital or some service in kind (e.g., labor) for a mutually beneficial enterprise.
passive management	protecting, monitoring key resources, and conducting baseline inventories to improve our knowledge of the ecosystem.

point source	a source of pollution that involves discharge of waste from an identifiable point, such as a smokestack or sewage-treatment plant.
population	an interbreeding group of plants or animals. The entire group of organisms of one species.
prescribed fire	the application of fire to wildland fuels, either by natural or intentional ignition, to achieve identified land use objectives. [FWS Manual 621FW1.7]
priority general public use	a compatible wildlife-dependent recreational use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation.
private land	land owned by a private individual or group or non-government organization.
private organization	any non-government organization.
protection	mechanisms like fee title acquisition, conservation easements, or binding agreements with landowners that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintaining species populations at a site (cf. “long-term ~”).
public	individuals, organizations, and non-government groups; officials of Federal, state, and local government agencies; Native American Tribes, and foreign nations—includes anyone outside the core planning team, those who may or may not have indicated an interest in the issues, and those who do or do not realize that our decisions may affect them.
public involvement	offering an opportunity to interested individuals and organizations whom our actions or policies may affect to become informed; soliciting their opinions. We thoroughly study public input, and give it thoughtful consideration in shaping decisions about managing refuges.
public land	land owned by the local, state, or Federal Government.
rare species	species identified for special management emphasis because of their uncommon occurrence within a watershed.
refuge goals	“descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statements of desired future conditions that convey a purpose but do not define measurable units.” (Writing Refuge Management Goals and Objectives: A Handbook, FWS January 2004)

refuge lands	lands in which the Service holds full interest in fee title or partial interest like an easement.
refuge purposes	“the terms ‘purposes of the refuge’ and ‘purposes of each refuge’ mean 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.” (National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997)
relatively stable	the conservation status category between vulnerable and relatively intact in which extensive areas of intact habitat remain, but local species declines and disruptions of ecological processes have occurred.
restoration	management of a disturbed or degraded habitat that results in the recovery of its original state. [e.g., restoration may involve planting native grasses and forbs, removing shrubs, prescribed burning, or reestablishing habitat for native plants and animals on degraded grassland.]
riparian	referring to the interface between freshwater habitats and the terrestrial landscape.
riparian habitat	habitat along the banks of a stream or river [cf. note above].
runoff	water from rain, melted snow, or agricultural or landscape irrigation that flows over a land surface into a water body (cf. “urban runoff”).
scale	the magnitude of a region or process. Refers to both spatial size—for example, a (relatively small-scale) patch or a (relatively large-scale) landscape; and a temporal rate—for example, (relatively rapid) ecological succession or (relatively slow) evolutionary speciation.
shrublands	habitats dominated by various species of shrubs, often with many grasses and forbs.
small patch	communities that form small, discrete areas of vegetation cover. Individual occurrences of this community type typically range in size from 1 to 50 hectares. Small patch communities occur in very specific ecological settings, such as on specialized landform types or in unusual microhabitats. The specialized conditions of small patch communities, however, are often dependent on the maintenance of ecological processes in the surrounding matrix and large patch communities. In many ecoregions, small patch communities contain a proportionately large percentage of the total flora, and also support a specific and restricted set of associated fauna (e.g., invertebrates or herpetofauna) dependent on specialized conditions.

special focus area	<p>an area of high biological value. [N.b., We normally direct most of our resources to special focus areas that were delineated because of</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the presence of federally listed endangered and threatened species, species at risk (formerly, “candidate species”), rare species, concentrations of migrating or wintering waterfowl, or shorebird stopover habitat; 2. their importance as migrant landbird stopover or breeding habitat; 3. the presence of unique or rare communities; or, 4. the presence of important fish habitat.]
species	<p>the basic category of biological classification intended to designate a single kind of animal or plant. Any variation among the individuals may be regarded as not affecting the essential sameness which distinguishes them from all other organisms.</p>
species assemblage	<p>the combination of particular species that occur together in a specific location and have a reasonable opportunity to interact with one another.</p>
species at risk	<p>A general term referring to species listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), as well as for unlisted species that are declining in population. Sometimes the term is used interchangeably with “species of concern.” Such species, unless already listed under ESA, receive no legal protection and use of the term does not necessarily imply that a species will eventually be proposed for listing (Source: http://www.fws.gov/endangered/about/glossary.html, accessed June 2011).</p>
species diversity	<p>usually synonymous with “species richness,” but may also include the proportional distribution of species.</p>
species of concern	<p>an informal term referring to a species that might be in need of conservation action. This may range from a need for periodic monitoring of populations and threats to the species and its habitat, to the necessity for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Such species receive no legal protection and use of the term does not necessarily imply that a species will eventually be proposed for listing (Source: http://www.fws.gov/endangered/about/glossary.html, accessed June 2011).</p>
species richness	<p>a simple measure of species diversity calculated as the total number of species in a habitat or community (Fiedler and Jain 1992).</p>
state agencies	<p>natural resource agencies of state governments.</p>
state land	<p>state-owned public land.</p>
state-listed species	<p>cf. “federally listed species.”</p>

step-down management plan	a plan for dealing with specific refuge management subjects, strategies, and schedules, e.g., cropland, wilderness, and fire. [FWS Manual 602FW1.4]
stopover habitat	habitat where birds rest and feed during migration.
strategy	a specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques for meeting unit objectives.
strategic management	the continual process of inventorying, choosing, implementing, and evaluating what an organization should be doing.
structure	the horizontal and vertical arrangement of trees and other vegetation having different sizes, resulting in different degrees of canopy layering, tree heights, and diameters within a stand.
succession	the natural, sequential change of species composition of a community in a given area.
surface water	all waters whose surface is naturally exposed to the atmosphere, or wells or other collectors directly influenced by surface water.
terrestrial	living on land.
threatened species	a federally listed, protected species that is likely to become an endangered species in all or a significant portion of its range.
trust resource	a resource that the Government holds in trust for the people through law or administrative act. [N.b., A Federal trust resource is one for which responsibility is given wholly or in part to the Federal Government by law or administrative act. Generally, Federal trust resources are nationally or internationally important no matter where they occur, like endangered species or migratory birds and fish that regularly move across state lines. They also include cultural resources protected by Federal historic preservation laws, and nationally important or threatened habitats, notably wetlands, navigable waters, and public lands like state parks and national wildlife refuges.]
understory	the lower layer of vegetation in a stand, which may include short trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.

unit objective	desired conditions that must be accomplished to achieve a desired outcome. [N.b., Objectives are the basis for determining management strategies, monitoring refuge accomplishments, and measuring their success. Objectives should be attainable, time-specific, and stated quantitatively or qualitatively (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4).]
upland	dry ground (i.e., other than wetlands).
urban runoff	water from rain, melted snow, or landscape irrigation flowing from city streets and domestic or commercial properties that may carry pollutants into a sewer system or water body.
vernal pool	a type of seasonal wetland formed by isolated depressions in the landscape that hold water in the winter and spring and are usually dry by midsummer or fall. There are no permanent surface connections to flowing water. Water sources include rainfall, snowmelt, and elevated water tables. Although fish are usually absent, vernal pools in riparian floodplains may contain fish periodically. Vernal pools are important breeding sites for amphibians. The woody debris and emergent grasses provide attachment sites for egg masses. (Source: Mitchell, J.C., A.R. Breisch, and K.A. Buhlmann. 2006. Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Northeastern U.S. Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation, Technical Publication HMG-3, Montgomery, Alabama, 108 pp)
vision statement	a concise statement of what the unit could achieve in the next 10 to 15 years.
watershed	the geographic area within which water drains into a particular river, stream, or body of water. A watershed includes both the land and the body of water into which the land drains.
wetlands	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. These areas are inundated or saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted to life in saturated soil conditions. “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.”—Cowardin et al. 1979
wilderness	cf. “designated wilderness.” an area designated by Congress as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System. [FWS Manual 610 FW 1.5 (draft)]

wilderness study areas	lands and waters identified by inventory as meeting the definition of wilderness and being evaluated for a recommendation they be included in the Wilderness System (cf. “recommended wilderness”). [N.b.A wilderness study area must meet these criteria 1. generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable ; 2. has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; 3. has at least 5,000 contiguous, roadless acres, or sufficient size to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition. (FWS Manual 610FW1.5 (draft)).]
wildfire	a free-burning fire requiring a suppression response; all fire other than prescribed fire that occurs on wildlands. [FWS Manual 621FW1.7]
wildlife-dependent recreational use	a use of a national wildlife refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation (National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966).
wildlife management	manipulating wildlife populations, either directly by regulating the numbers, ages, and sex ratios harvested, or indirectly by providing favorable habitat conditions and alleviating limiting factors.
wildlife-oriented recreation	recreational activities in which wildlife is the focus of the experience. [“The terms ‘wildlife-dependent recreation’ and ‘wildlife-dependent recreational use’ mean a use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation.”—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997]

Acronyms

ACJV	= Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
AID	= Tract 48
ARPA	= Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1960
ATV	= All-terrain vehicle
BCC	= Birds of Conservation Concern
BCR	= Bird Conservation Region
CCMP	= Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan
CCP	= Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CFR	= Code of Federal Regulations
CWD	= Chronic Wasting Disease
DRBC	= Delaware River Basin Commission
EA	= Environmental Assessment
EIS	= Environmental Impact Statement
ENSP	= Endangered and Nongame Species Program
EPA	= U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	= Federal Endangered Species Act
FONSI	= Finding of No Significant Impact
FPRRL	= Finns Point Rear Range Light
GIS	= Geographic information system
HMP	= Habitat Management Plan
IPCC	= Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LWCF	= Land and Water Conservation Fund
MANEM	= Mid-Atlantic/New England/Maritimes Region
MOA	= Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	= Memorandum of Understanding
NABCI	= North American Bird Conservation Initiative
NAWCP	= North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
NAWMP	= North American Waterfowl Management Plan
NEPA	= National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NHCR	= National-State Agency Herpetological Conservation Report
NHPA	= National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
NJDEP	= New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJDFW	= New Jersey Division of Fish and Wildlife
NJLHS	= New Jersey Light House Society
NJWAP	= New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan
NMFS	= National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	= Federal Register Notice of Availability
NOAA	= National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWR	= National Wildlife Refuge
NWRS	= National Wildlife Refuge System
PARC	= Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
PIF	= Partners in Flight

Acronyms

RONs	= Refuge Operations Needs System
SAMMS	= Service Assist Maintenance System
SAMP	= Special Area Management Plan
SHPO	= State Historic Preservation Office
SLAMM	= Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model
SMA	= Special Management Area
SWG	= State Wildlife Grant programs
USDA	= U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDA APHIS	= USDA Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services
USFWS	= U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	= U.S. Geological Survey
WAP	= Wildlife Action Plan
WCS	= Water Control Structure
WMA	= Watershed Management Area
XTL	= Xmas Tree Lane