

# **Appendix B: Glossary**



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### Alluvial

Sand, silt and mud left by flowing water; a river delta

### Alternative

A set of objectives and strategies needed to achieve refuge goals and the desired future condition

### Big 6 Priority Public Uses

The National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 defines and establishes that wildlife dependent recreational uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation) are the priority public uses of the System and, if found compatible, will receive enhanced and priority consideration in refuge planning and management over other general public uses.

### Biocontrol

The use of naturally occurring agents such as insects, fungus, or bacteria to eradicate or suppress invasive plants or animals.

### Biological Diversity

The variety of life forms and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur.

### Biological Integrity

The composition, structure, and functioning of living organisms processes and systems consistent with natural conditions.

### Bottomland Hardwood Forest

See *Floodplain Forest* in this appendix.

### Carrying Capacity

The maximum population of a species able to be supported by a habitat or area.

### Closed Area

Areas on the refuge closed to waterfowl hunting.

### Compatible Use

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 (Draft Service Manual 603 FW 3.6). A compatibility determination supports the selection of compatible uses and identifies stipulations or limits necessary to ensure compatibility.

### Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)

A document that describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and specifies management actions to achieve refuge goals and the mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

### Conservation Easement

Establishes certain preservation restrictions on a property while maintaining private possession and use of the property.

### Cool Season Grasses

Grasses that complete their maximum growth and set seed early in the growing season and are dormant by late summer. Examples include June grass and green needle grass.

### Cultural Resources

“those parts of the physical environment – natural and built – that have cultural value to some kind of sociocultural group ... [and] those non-material human social institutions...” (King 1998). Cultural resources include historic sites, archeological sites and associated artifacts, sacred sites, traditional cultural properties, cultural items (human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony), and buildings and structures. (McManamon, Francis P. DCA-NPS; letter 12-23-97 to Walla Walla District, COE.)

### Deciduous Forest

Forest dominated by trees and shrub that lose their leaves for part of the year.

**Deepwater Marsh**

Areas with water depths over 30 inches and dominated by aquatic submergent or floating leaved plants.

**Drawdown**

To reduce the water depth in a pool or impoundment for a specific amount of time during the growing season to promote plant growth.

**Ecosystem**

A dynamic and interrelated complex of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.

**Ecosystem Management**

Management of a broad area that includes all ecological, social, and economic components that make up the whole system.

**Emergent**

Plant species able to withstand flooding of their root systems during the growing season. Cattails, bulrush and arrowleaf are examples of emergent vegetation.

**Endangered Species**

Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and publish in the Federal Register.

**Environmental Health**

The physical and chemical factors that function independently of living organism and effect the functioning of natural environments.

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program**

Reauthorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) to provide a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals.

**Environmental Impact Statement**

A systematic analysis to determine if proposed actions would result in a significant effect on the quality of the environment.

**Exotic Species**

With respect to a particular ecosystem, any species that is not native to that system.

**Extirpation**

The local extinction of a species that is no longer found in a locality or country, but exists elsewhere in the world.

**Federal Trust Species**

Trust species include endangered and threatened species, migratory birds, inter-jurisdictional species of fish, marine mammals, and other species listed in individual refuge establishing legislation or Executive Orders.

**Flea Beetle**

Foliage and root boring beetles of genus *Aphthona* used to suppress and eradicate leafy spurge.

**Floodplain Forest**

Low lying forest with tree species defined mostly by their ability to survive various levels of flooding. Species include willow, cottonwood, silver maple and green ash in low wet areas, and oaks and hickories in higher sites.

**Forb**

A broad-leaved, herbaceous plant.

**Goals**

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

**Goat Prairie**

Remnant native prairies on the steep sides of bluffs along the Upper Mississippi River.

**Grassland**

A region of vegetation consisting mainly of grass and grass-like plants.

**Hardwood Species**

Tree species characterized by broad, flat leaves, as distinguished from coniferous or needle-leaved trees. Oak, cherry, maple, and hickory are examples.

**Impoundment**

Areas of water enclosed by man-made dikes and usually containing some type of water control structure.

**Indigenous**

Growing or living naturally in a specific region.

**Interjurisdictional Fish**

Fish that occur in waters under the jurisdiction of one or more states, for which there is an interstate fishery management plan or which migrates between the waters under the jurisdiction of two or more states.

**Invasive Species**

An alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health.

**Issue**

Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision. For example, a resource management problem, concern, a threat to natural resources, a conflict in uses, or in the presence of an undesirable resource condition.

**Land And Water Conservation Funds**

Created by Congress in 1964 to provide money to federal, state and local governments to purchase land, water, and wetlands for the benefit of all Americans.

**Landbird**

A category of bird that obtains at least part of their food from the land and nests in mainland areas. Landbirds include raptors and songbirds among others.

**Moist Soil Habitat**

Wet areas usually created by periodically removing water to allow plants to germinate; provides excellent food resources for birds.

**Mudflat**

Areas of wet soil exposed when water levels in a given area decline.

**National Scenic Byway**

Recognition given by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for roads with archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, or scenic qualities.

**National Wildlife Refuge System**

All lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife and plant resources.

**Native Species**

A species that has not been introduced to an area and historically occurred in that ecosystem.

**Native Prairie**

Areas dominated by non-introduced, historically occurring grasses and forbs.

**Natural Cavities**

Holes in standing trees or downed logs resulting from ageing, disease, trauma, or animal activity.

**Neotropical Migrant**

Birds that breed in North America, but migrate to the tropical regions of Mexico, Central America, South America, and the Caribbean in the winter.

**Non-Indigenous**

Species that did not historically or naturally occur in an area.

**Oak Savanna**

See *Savannah* in this appendix.

**Oak Wilt**

Oak wilt is a fungal infection affecting oak trees. All species of oak are susceptible with red oaks being particularly vulnerable. In red oaks, oak wilt is almost always lethal and death can occur in as little as one month. There is currently no known cure.

**Objectives**

Actions to be accomplished to achieve a desired outcome.

**Passerine**

Perching birds that are mostly small and living near the ground, with feet having 4 toes arranged to allow for gripping a perch.

**PCB**

Poly-chlorinated biphenyl, a family of chemicals used to produce plastics and fire retardants.

**Pleistocene Epoch**

The 6th epoch of the Cenozoic era , beginning 1.8 million years ago and ending 11,000 years ago.

**Pine Plantation**

A grouping of coniferous pine trees, usually planted in rows to accommodate harvest machinery.

**Pool**

An area of the Mississippi between 2 lock and dams; or an area impounded by man-made dikes.

**Pre-European Settlement Habitats**

Areas containing plant and animal species and processes that occurred before European settlers arrived.

**Preferred Alternative**

The Service's selected alternative identified in the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

**Prescribed Fire**

Controlled fires set intentionally to achieve specific habitat management objectives.

**Regional Resource Conservation Priority Species<sup>243</sup>**

A species in Region 3 of the USFWS considered to be in the greatest need of attention under the USFWS's full span of authorities.

**Riverine Wetlands**

Land adjacent to or effected by river hydrology, that are dominated by water loving plants and have soils that are inundated for part of the growing season.

**Rough Fish**

Species not monitored or stocked by the state for sport; any of a number of unwanted fish caught by anglers; usually referring to carp species.

**Sand Prairie Habitat**

Wide-open grasslands with dry, sandy soil and few trees or shrubs; dominated by dry land grasses like big and little bluestem.

**Savannah**

A rolling grassland scattered with shrubs and isolated oak trees.

**Scoping**

A process for determining the scope of issues to be addresses by a comprehensive conservation plan and for identifying the significant issues. Federal, state and local agencies, and private organizations and individuals are involved in the scoping process.

**Seabird**

A group of birds that obtain at least some of their food from the ocean by traveling some distance over its surface. They typically breed on islands and along coastal areas. Seabirds include gulls, alcids, pelicans, albatrosses, storm-petrels, and cormorants among others.

**Shorebird**

Any of numerous wading birds that frequent the wet edges of water bodies, foraging for insects and crustaceans in the wet mud.

**Shrub-Scrub**

Habitats dominated by low growing woody brush.

**Species**

A distinctive kind of plant or animal having distinguishable characteristics, and that can interbreed and produce young.

**Strategies**

A general approach or specific actions to achieve objectives.

**Submergent**

Aquatic plants that are adapted to live completely or partially under water during the entire growing season.

**Threatened Species**

Those plant or animal species likely to become endangered species throughout all of or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

**Trust Species**

See *Federal Trust Species* in this appendix.

**Undertaking**

“a project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by

or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with Federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval...," i.e., all Federal actions. (36 CFR 800.16(y); 12-12-2000)

**Upland**

Dry land dominated by grasses, shrubs, forbs, and trees that do not tolerate wet conditions.

**USGS Quick Response Research Program**

A funding program established to match U.S. Geological Survey expertise with USFWS research needs.

**Vegetation**

Plants in general, or the sum of the plant life in an area.

**Vegetation Type**

A category of land based on potential or existing dominant plant species of a particular area.

**Wading Bird**

Any of many long-legged birds that wade in water in search of food.

**Warm Season Grasses**

Grasses that reach their maximum growth and produce seed in late summer. Species include big and little bluestem and switch grass.

**Water-Level Management**

The practice of lowering water depth in an impoundment or pool to promote the growth of aquatic and emergent plants.

**Watershed**

The entire land area that collects and drains water into a stream or stream system.

**Wet Meadow**

Grassland with waterlogged soil near the surface but without standing water for most of the year.

**Wetland**

Areas such as lakes, marshes, and streams that are inundated by surface or ground water for a long enough period of time each year to support, and that do support under natural conditions, plants and animals that require saturated or seasonally saturated soils.

**Wildlife Diversity**

A measure of the number and relative abundance of species in an area.

**Wildlife-dependent Recreational Use**

See *Big 6 Priority Uses* in this appendix.

