

# Glossary

**accessible**—Pertaining to physical access to areas and activities for people of different (abilities, especially those) with physical impairments.

**active management**—The direct manipulation of habitats or wildlife populations to achieve specific objectives. Actions could include planting food plots, managing water levels, prescribed grazing or fire, or wildlife relocations.

**adaptive resource management**—The rigorous application of management, research, and monitoring to gain information and experience necessary to assess and change management activities; a process that uses feedback from research, monitoring, and evaluation of management actions to support or change objectives and strategies at all planning levels; a process in which policy decisions are carried out within a framework of scientifically driven experiments to test predictions and assumptions inherent in management plan. Analysis of results helps managers determine whether current management should continue as is or whether it should be modified to achieve desired conditions.

**Administration Act**—National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966.

**alternative**—A reasonable way to solve an identified problem or satisfy the stated need (40 CFR 1500.2); one of several different means of accomplishing refuge purposes and goals and contributing to the Refuge System mission (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 602 FW 1.5).

**amphibian**—A class of cold-blooded vertebrates including frogs, toads, or salamanders.

**annual**—A plant that flowers and dies within 1 year of germination.

**appropriate use**—A proposed or existing uses on national wildlife refuges that meet at least one of the following—(1) is a wildlife-dependent recreational use; (2) contributes to fulfilling refuge purposes, the Refuge System mission, or goals and objectives outline in a CCP; or (3) the refuge manager has evaluated the use and found it to be appropriate.

**ATV**—All-terrain vehicle.

**AUM**—Animal-unit month.

**baseline**—A set of critical observations, data, or information used for comparison or a control.

**BCR**—Bird conservation region.

**biological control**—The use of organisms or viruses to control invasive plants or other pests.

**biological diversity, also biodiversity**—The variety of life and its processes including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and the communities and ecosystems in which they occur (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 052 FW 1.12B). The National Wildlife Refuge System’s focus is on indigenous species, biotic communities, and ecological processes.

**biological integrity**—Biotic composition, structure, and function at genetic, organism, and community levels.

**biotic**—Pertaining to life or living organisms; caused, produced by, or comprising living organisms.

**BLM**—See Bureau of Land Management.

**Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**—A Federal agency under the Department of Interior that was established in 1946 through consolidation of the General Land Office and U.S. Grazing Service. The agency has a multiple-use mandate is responsible for a variety of programs for managing and conserving surface and subsurface mineral estates, mostly in the western United States.

**Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)**—A Federal agency under the Department of Interior that oversees dams, power plants, and canals. The agency oversees the Closed Basin Project in the San Luis Valley which was built to fulfil water obligation delivery downstream of Colorado.

**canopy**—A layer of foliage, generally the uppermost layer, in a vegetative stand; midlevel or understory vegetation in multilayered stands. Canopy closure (also canopy cover) is an estimate of the amount of overhead vegetative cover.

**CCP**—See comprehensive conservation plan.

**CFR**—See Code of Federal Regulations.

**cervid**—All members of the family Cervidae and hybrids including deer, elk, moose, caribous, reindeer, and related species.

**CFR**—See Code of Federal Regulations.

**cfs**—Cubic feet per second.

**CO<sub>2</sub>**—Carbon dioxide.

**Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)**—The codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the Executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government. Each

volume of the CFR is updated once each calendar year.

**Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR)**—State of Colorado agency charged with management of the State's water resources including administering water rights and issuing water well permits. Also known as the Office of the State Engineer.

**Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)**—See Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

**Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)**—State of Colorado wildlife agency; formerly Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW)

**compatibility determination**—See compatible use.

**compatible use**—A wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a refuge that, in the sound professional judgment of the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the Refuge System or the purposes of the refuge (The "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual" 603 FW 3.6). A compatibility determination supports the selection of compatible uses and identified stipulations or limits necessary to ensure compatibility.

**comprehensive conservation plan (CCP)**—A document that describes the desired future conditions of the refuge and provides long-range guidance and management direction for the refuge manager to accomplish the purposes of the refuge, contribute to the mission of the Refuge System, and to meet other relevant mandates (The "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual," 602 FW 1.5).

**concern**—See issue.

**conservation area**—Conservation areas are units of the Refuge System and are established under the authority of the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1958. They outline a boundary within which the Service may use Land and Water Conservation Fund Act fund (or other funding sources) to purchase easements from willing sellers.

**conservation district**—Organized in the 1930s as a response to the severe erosion problems, a district is often a political subdivision of a State. Money comes from assessments levied on real property within the boundaries of the district. It helps citizens in conserving renewable natural resources.

**cool-season grasses**—Grasses that begin growth earlier in the season and often become dormant in the summer. These grasses will germinate at lower temperatures. Examples of cool-season grasses at the refuge are western wheatgrass, needle and thread, and green needlegrass.

**county road**—In general, means any public highway opened, established, constructed, maintained, abandoned in accordance with State law.

**cover, cover type, canopy cover**—Present vegetation.

**cultural resources**—The remains of sites, structures, or objects used by people in the past.

**depredation**—Destruction or consumption of eggs, broods, or individual wildlife due to a predatory animal; damage inflicted on agricultural crops or ornamental plants by wildlife.

**dispersal hunting**—A limited public hunt used primarily to control elk numbers and their distribution

**DOI**—Department of the Interior.

**drawdown**—The act of manipulating water levels in an impoundment to allow for the natural drying-out cycle of a wetland.

**EA**—See environmental assessment.

**ecological resilience**—The ability to absorb disturbances, to be changed, and then to reorganize and still have the same identity, that is, keep the same basic structure and ways of functioning. A resilient system is forgiving of external shocks; a disturbance is unlikely to affect the whole. A resilient habitat (1) sustains many species of plants and animals and a highly variable structural composition; (2) is asymmetric; (3) exemplifies biological integrity, biological diversity, and environmental health; and (4) adapts to climate change.

**ecosystem**—A dynamic and interrelating complex of plant and animal communities and their associated nonliving environment; a biological community, together with its environment, functioning as a unit. For administrative purposes, the Service has designated 53 ecosystems covering the United States and its possessions. These ecosystems generally correspond with watershed boundaries and their sizes and ecological complexity vary.

**ecosystem resilience**—See ecological resilience.

**EIS**—Environmental impact statement.

**endangered species, Federal**—A plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant part of its range.

**endangered species, State**—A plant or animal species in danger of becoming extinct or extirpated in a particular State within the near future if factors contributing to its decline continue. Populations of these species are at critically low levels or their habitats have been degraded or depleted to a significant degree.

**endemic species**—Plants or animals that occur naturally in a certain region and whose distribution is relatively limited to a particular locality.

**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 and alternatives to such action, and provides sufficient evi-

- dence and analysis of effects to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact (40 CFR 1508.9).
- environmental health**—Composition, structure, and functioning of soil, water, air, and other abiotic features.
- EPA**—Environmental Protection Agency.
- ephemeral**—Lasting for a very short time; short-lived; transitory;
- extinction**—The complete disappearance of a species from the earth; no longer existing.
- extirpation**—The extinction of a population; complete eradication of a species within a specified area.
- fauna**—All the vertebrate and invertebrate animals of an area.
- Federal trust resource**—A trust is something managed by one entity for another who holds the ownership. The Service holds in trust many natural resources for the people of the United States as a result of Federal acts and treaties. Examples are species listed under the Endangered Species Act, migratory birds protected by international treaties, and native plant or wildlife species found on a national wildlife refuge.
- Federal trust species**—All species where the Federal Government has primary jurisdiction including federally endangered or threatened species, migratory birds, anadromous fish, and certain marine mammals.
- fire management plan (FMP)**—A plan that identifies and integrates all wildland fire management and related activities within the context of approved land and resource management plans. The plan defines a program to manage wildland fires (wild-fire and prescribed fire).
- focal species**—A multispecies approach where the ecological needs of a suite of species are used to define an ideal landscape to maintain the range of habitat conditions and ecological processes required by landbirds or other species. Focal species are considered most sensitive to or limited by certain ecological processes (such as fire or nest predation) or habitat attributes (such as patch size). The needs of a suite of focal species are then used to help guide management activities.
- forb**—A broad-leaved, herbaceous plant; a seed-producing annual, biennial, or perennial plant that does not develop persistent woody tissue but dies down at the end of the growing season.
- fragmentation**—The alteration of a large block of habitat that creates isolated patches of the original habitat that are interspersed with a variety of other habitat types; the process of reducing the size and connectivity of habitat patches, making movement of individuals or genetic information between parcels difficult or impossible.
- Friends group**—Any formal organization whose mission is to support the goals and purposes of its associated refuge and the National Wildlife Refuge Association overall; Friends organizations and cooperative and interpretive associations.
- FTE**—A full-time equivalent; one or more job positions with tours of duty that, when combined, equate to one person employed for the standard Government work-year.
- FWS**—See U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- genetically modified crops (GMOs)**—Plants used in agriculture where the genetic material has been modified in a way that does not occur naturally in the species.
- geocaching**—A high-technology scavenger hunt in which objects are hidden at secret outdoor locations for participants to find using Global Positioning System positions posted on the Internet.
- geographic information system (GIS)**—A computer system capable of storing and manipulating spatial data; a set of computer hardware and software for analyzing and displaying spatially referenced features (such as points, lines and polygons) with nongeographic attributes such as species and age.
- GIS**—See geographic information system.
- Global Positioning System (GPS)**—A navigational system involving satellites that allows a user with a receiver to determine precise coordinates for their location on the earth's surface.
- goal**—Descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units (The "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual," 620 FW 1.5).
- GPS**—See Global Positioning System.
- GS**—General Schedule (pay rate schedule for certain Federal positions).
- graminoids**—of or relating to grasses.
- habitat**—Suite of existing environmental conditions required by an organism for survival and reproduction; the place where an organism typically lives and grows.
- habitat disturbance**—Significant alteration of habitat structure or composition; may be natural (for example, wildfire) or human-caused events (for example, timber harvest and disking).
- habitat management plan (HMP)**—A stepdown plan to a comprehensive conservation plan that identifies in detail how the objectives and strategies for uplands, riparian areas, river bottoms, and shorelines will be carried out.
- Habitat Partnership Program (HPP)**—A program funded by revenue from the sale of big game licenses in Colorado which develops partnerships among landowners, land managers, sportsmen and women, the public, and Colorado Parks and

Wildlife to reduce wildlife conflict, particularly conflict associated with forage and fencing. In the San Luis Valley, there are two HPP committees, Mount Blanca and San Luis Valley.

**habitat type, also vegetation type, cover type**—A land classification system based on the concept of distinct plant associations.

**HDP**—See height density plot.

**herbivory**—Grazing of grass and other plants by any animal.

**heterogeneity**—diversity or dissimilar species within a landscape

**HMP**—See habitat management plan.

**HUA**—Hydrologic unit area.

**hunnable**—A species that can be hunted on the refuge in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

**Hydrogeomorphic methodology evaluation (HGM)**—An evaluation of ecosystem restoration and management options. The study evaluates historical and current information about geology, geomorphology, soils, topography, hydrology, plant and animal communities, and other factors for designing future restoration or management approaches.

**IMPLAN**—Impact Analysis for Planning.

**impoundment**—A body of water created by collection and confinement within a series of levees or dikes, creating separate management units although not always independent of one another.

**Improvement Act**—National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997.

**indigenous**—Originating or occurring naturally in a particular place.

**inholding**—Non-Service land owned by private, other agency, or other group landowners that is within the boundary of a national wildlife refuge.

**integrated pest management**—Methods of managing undesirable species such as invasive plants; education, prevention, physical or mechanical methods of control, biological control, responsible chemical use, and cultural methods.

**introduced species**—A species present in an area due to intentional or unintentional escape, release, dissemination, or placement into an ecosystem as a result of human activity.

**invasive plant, also noxious weed**—A species that is nonnative to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

**invertebrates**—An animal that lacks an internal skeleton or backbone such as insects, butterflies, and aquatic species like snails.

**inviolate sanctuary**—A place of refuge or protection where animals and birds may not be hunted.

**issue**—Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision; for example, a Service initia-

tive, opportunity, resource management problem, a threat to the resources of the unit, conflict in uses, public concern, or the presence of an undesirable resource condition (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 602 FW 1.5).

**lentic**—Still-water wetlands. These wetlands occur in basins and lack a defined channel and floodplain. Examples include perennial, intermittent bodies of water like lakes, reservoirs, stock ponds.

**lotic**—Flowing water wetlands are associated with rivers, streams and drainage ways. These riparian wetlands contain a defined channel and floodplain.

**management alternative**—See alternative.

**migration**—Regular extensive, seasonal movements of birds between their breeding regions and their wintering regions; to pass usually periodically from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding.

**migratory birds**—Birds that follow a seasonal movement from their breeding grounds to their wintering grounds. Waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and songbirds are all migratory birds.

**mimic**—To copy or imitate closely; to take on the appearance of.

**mission**—Succinct statement of purpose or reason for being.

**mitigation**—Measure designed to counteract an environmental impact or to make an impact less severe.

**monitoring**—The process of collecting information to track changes of selected parameters over time.

**national wildlife refuge**—A designated area of land, water, or an interest in land or water within the National Wildlife Refuge System, but does not include coordination areas; a complete listing of all units of the Refuge System is in the current “Annual Report of Lands Under Control of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

**National Park Service (NPS)**—A Federal agency under the Department Interior which oversees the care of the Nation’s National Parks.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**—A Federal agency under the Department of Agriculture. Formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the agency works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

**National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System)**—Various categories of areas administered by the Secretary of the Interior for the conservation of fish and wildlife including species threatened with extinction, all lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the Secretary as wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of

fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, and waterfowl production areas.

**National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Improvement Act)**—Sets the mission and the administrative policy for all refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System; defines a unifying mission for the Refuge System; establishes the legitimacy and appropriateness of the six priority public uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation); establishes a formal process for determining appropriateness and compatibility; establishes the responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior for managing and protecting the Refuge System; requires a comprehensive conservation plan for each refuge by the year 2012. This act amended portions of the Refuge Recreation Act and National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966.

**native species**—A species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in that ecosystem.

**neonicotinoid**—A relatively new class of insecticides that share a common mode of action that affects the central nervous system of insects. It is chemically similar to nicotine.

**neotropical migrant**—A bird species that breeds north of the United States and Mexican border and winters primarily south of this border.

**nest success**—The percentage of nests that successfully hatch one or more eggs of the total number of nests initiated in an area.

**nongovernmental organization**—Any group that is not a Federal, State, tribal, county, city, town, local, or other governmental entity.

**noxious weed, also invasive plant**—Any living stage (including seeds and reproductive parts) of a parasitic or other plant of a kind that is of foreign origin (new to or not widely prevalent in the United States) and can directly or indirectly injure crops, other useful plants, livestock, poultry, other interests of agriculture including irrigation, navigation, fish and wildlife resources, or public health. According to the Federal Noxious Weed Act (Public Law 93–639), a noxious weed (can be invasive too) is one that causes disease or has adverse effects on humans or the human environment and, therefore, is detrimental to the agriculture and commerce of the United States and to public health.

**NWR**—National wildlife refuge.

**objective**—An objective is a concise target statement of what will be achieved, how much will be achieved, when and where it will be achieved, and who is responsible for the work; derived from goals and provide the basis for determining man-

agement strategies. Objectives should be attainable and time-specific and should be stated quantitatively to the extent possible. If objectives cannot be stated quantitatively, they may be stated qualitatively (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 602 FW 1.5).

**patch**—An area distinct from that around it; an area distinguished from its surroundings by environmental conditions.

**perennial**—Lasting or active through the year or through many years; a plant species that has a lifespan of more than 2 years.

**plant community**—An assemblage of plant species unique in its composition; occurs in particular locations under particular influences; a reflection or integration of the environmental influences on the site such as soil, temperature, elevation, solar radiation, slope, aspect, and rainfall; denotes a general kind of climax plant community, such as ponderosa pine or bunchgrass.

**playa habitat**—Wetlands that are usually described as shallow, typically round, ephemeral bodies of water with clay floors that lie in the lowest point of a closed watershed. When wet, these saline wetlands provide important habitat for many bird species.

**preferred alternative**—The Service’s final selection (after analysis of alternatives in a draft NEPA document) of a management alternative to carry out, which is documented in a “record of decision” for an EIS or a “finding of no significant impact” for an EA and published in the Federal Register. The decision is based on the legal responsibility of the Service including the missions of the Service and the Refuge System, other legal and policy mandates, the purpose of the refuge, and the vision and goals in the final CCP. In addition, the Service considers public, tribal, and agency input along with land uses in the ecosystem, environmental effects, and budget projections.

**prescribed fire**—A wildland fire originating from a planned ignition to meet specific objectives identified in a written, approved, prescribed fire plan for which NEPA requirements (where applicable) have been met before ignition. These objectives could be hazardous fuel reduction, habitat- or wildlife-oriented, or other objectives in the prescribed fire burn plan.

**prescriptive grazing**—The planned application of livestock grazing at a specified season, duration and intensity to accomplish specific vegetation management objectives. The objectives are designed to achieve the broader habitat and wildlife goals.

**priority public use**—One of six uses authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 to have priority if found to be compatible with a refuge’s purposes. This includes hunt-

ing, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, environmental education, and interpretation.

**properly functioning condition**—Qualitative method for assessing the condition of riparian-wetland areas. It describes both the assessment and the conditions of the wetland area. It evaluates how well the physical processes are functioning through use of a checklist.

**proposed action**—The alternative proposed to best achieve the purpose, vision, and goals of a refuge (contributes to the Refuge System mission, addresses the significant issues, and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management).

**public**—Individuals, organizations, and groups; officials of Federal, State, and local government agencies; Native American tribes; and foreign nations. It may include anyone outside the core planning team. It includes those who may or may not have shown an interest in Service issues and those who do or do not realize that Service decisions may affect them.

**public domain**—Lands that were not under private or State ownership during the 18th and 19th centuries in the United States, as the country was expanding. These lands were obtained from the 13 colonies, Native American tribes, or purchases from other counties. The domain was controlled by the Federal Government and sold to States or private interests through the General Land Office, which would eventually become the Bureau of Land Management.

**public involvement**—A process that offers affected and interested individuals and organizations an opportunity to become informed about, and to express their opinions on, Service actions and policies. In the process, these views are studied thoroughly and thoughtful consideration of public views is given in shaping decisions for refuge management.

**purpose of the refuge**—The purpose of a refuge is specified in or derived from the law, proclamation, Executive order, agreement, public land order, donation document, or administrative memorandum establishing authorization or expanding a refuge, a refuge unit, or a refuge subunit (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 602 FW 1.5).

**quality wildlife-dependent recreation**—Programs are based on 11 criteria that defined under 605 FW1, “General Guidelines for Wildlife-Dependent Recreation.” Quality programs include the following—safety of participants and compliance with laws and regulations; minimized conflicts with other goals or users; accessibility, stewardship, and availability to a broad spectrum of the American people; public understanding and appreciation

of the natural resources; reliable and reasonable opportunities to experience wildlife; accessible facilities that blend in with the natural setting; and visitor satisfaction to help define and evaluate programs.

**raptor**—A carnivorous bird such as a hawk, a falcon, or a vulture that feeds wholly or chiefly on meat taken by hunting or on carrion (dead carcasses).

**refuge purpose**—See purpose of the refuge.

**Refuge System**—See National Wildlife Refuge System.

**refuge use**—Any activity on a refuge, except administrative or law enforcement activity, carried out by or under the direction of an authorized Service employee.

**resident species**—A species inhabiting a given locality throughout the year; nonmigratory species.

**resilience**—The ability to absorb disturbances, to be changed and then to reorganize and still have the same identity (keep the same basic structure and ways of functioning).

**rest**—Free from biological, mechanical, or chemical manipulation, in reference to refuge lands.

**restoration**—Management emphasis designed to move ecosystems to desired conditions and processes, such as healthy upland habitats and aquatic systems.

**riparian area or riparian zone**—An area or habitat that is transitional from terrestrial to aquatic ecosystems including streams, lakes, wet areas, and adjacent plant communities and their associated soils that have free water at or near the surface; an area whose components are directly or indirectly attributed to the influence of water; of or relating to a river; specifically applied to ecology, “riparian” describes the land immediately adjoining and directly influenced by streams. For example, riparian vegetation includes all plant life growing on the land adjoining a stream and directly influenced by the stream.

**RLGIS**—Refuge land geographic information system.

**SAMMS**—See Service Asset Maintenance Management System.

**San Luis Valley (SLV)**—An extensive high-altitude basin in Colorado with a small portion overlapping into New Mexico covering about 8,000 square miles and sitting at an average elevation of 7,664 feet. It is drained to the south by the Rio Grande. The valley is about 122 miles long and 74 miles wide.

**scoping**—The process of obtaining information from the public for input into the planning process.

**seasonally flooded**—Surface water is present for extended periods in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the season in most years.

**sediment**—Material deposited by water, wind, and glaciers.

**Service**—See U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS)**—A national database that contains the unfunded maintenance needs of each refuge; projects include those required to maintain existing equipment and buildings, correct safety deficiencies for the implementation of approved plans, and meet goals, objectives, and legal mandates.

**shorebird**—Any of a suborder (Charadrii) of birds such as plovers or sandpipers that frequent wetlands.

**shrub-grass**—This habitat type occurs in areas of Baca National Wildlife Refuge that receive high amounts of subsurface irrigation from adjacent wet meadows. These areas provide valuable wetland habitat for multiple native species. It has patches of dense graminoids in the understory. The overstory is dominated by rubber rabbitbrush, but other shrubs like greasewood may also be present.

**spatial**—Relating to, occupying, or having the character of space.

**special status species**—Plants or animals that have been identified through Federal law, State law, or agency policy as requiring special protection of monitoring. Examples include federally listed endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species; State-listed endangered, threatened, candidate, or monitor species; Service's species of management concern; or species identified by the Partners in Flight Program as being of extreme or moderately high conservation concern.

**special use permit**—A permit for special authorization from the refuge manager required for any refuge service, facility, privilege, or product of the soil provided at refuge expense and not usually available to the public through authorizations in Title 50 CFR or other public regulations (Refuge Manual, 5 RM 17.6).

**species of concern**—Those plant and animal species, while not falling under the definition of special status species, that are of management interest by virtue of being Federal trust species such as migratory birds, important game species, or significant keystone species; species that have documented or apparent populations declines, small or restricted populations, or dependence on restricted or vulnerable habitats.

**stepdown management plan**—A plan that provides the details necessary to carry out management strategies identified in the comprehensive conservation plan (The "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual," 602 FW 1.5).

**strategy**—A specific action, tool, or technique or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives (The "Fish and Wildlife Service Manual," 602 FW 1.5).

**suppression**—All the work of extinguishing a fire or confining fire spread.

**surrogate species**—species that represent other species or aspects of the environment. These include umbrella, focal, keystone, indicator, and flagship species. It is a commonly-used scientific term for system-based conservation planning that uses a species as an indicator of landscape habitat and system conditions.

**target species**—A species selected, because of specific biological or social reasons, for management and monitoring. A target species could be a focal, endangered, big game, or other species.

**TES**—Threatened and endangered species.

**threatened species, Federal**—Species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant part of their range.

**threatened species, State**—A plant or animal species likely to become endangered in a particular State within the near future if factors contributing to population decline or habitat degradation or loss continue.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)**—A calculation of the maximum amount of pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still safely meet water quality standards.

**travel corridor**—A landscape feature that facilitates the biologically effective transport of animals between larger patches of habitat dedicated to conservation functions. Such corridors may facilitate several kinds of traffic including frequent foraging movement, seasonal migration, or the once in a lifetime dispersal of juvenile animals. These are transition habitats and need not contain all the habitat elements required for long-term survival or reproduction of its migrants.

**trust resource**—See Federal trust resource.

**trust species**—See Federal trust species.

**ungulate**—A hoofed mammal such as horses, cattle, deer, elk, pronghorn, and bighorn sheep.

**U.S.C.**—United States Code.

**USDA**—U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**USDA Forest Service (USFS)**—A Federal agency under the Department of Agriculture which oversees management of national forests.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service, USFWS, FWS)**—The principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 530 national wildlife refuges and thousands of waterfowl production areas. It also runs 65 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological service field stations, the agency

enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores national significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign Governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal aid program that distributes millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to State wildlife agencies.

**USFWS**—See U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**—A Federal agency whose mission is to provide reliable scientific information to describe and understand the earth; minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters; manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and enhance and protect our quality of life.

**USGS**—See U.S. Geological Survey.

**vision statement**—A concise statement of the desired future condition of the planning unit, based primarily on the Refuge System mission, specific refuge purposes, and other relevant mandates (The “Fish and Wildlife Service Manual,” 602 FW 1.5).

**wildfire**—A wildland fire originating from an unplanned ignition caused by lightning, volcanoes, unauthorized and accidental human-caused fires, and escaped prescribed fires.

**wildland fire**—A general term describing any non-structure fire that occurs in the wildland.

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