

Acronyms and Glossary



Karen Terwilliger/TCI

TTOR Van

Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
ACJV	Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
AHWP	Annual Habitat Work Plan
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
BBS	Breeding Bird Survey
BCR	Bird Conservation Region
BMP	best management practice
BP	before present
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
IMP	Inventory and Monitoring Plan
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LCC	Landscape Conservation Cooperative
LGM	last glacial maximum
LIDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
MA	Massachusetts
MA CWCS	Massachusetts Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
MA DEP	Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MA DFG	Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game
MA DFW	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
MA SHPO	Massachusetts State Historical Preservation Office

Acronyms

Acronym	Full Name
MANEM	Mid-Atlantic / New England / Maritimes
MassWildlife	Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
MHC	Massachusetts Historical Commission
MMA	Maria Mitchell Association
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NABCI	North American Bird Conservation Initiative
NAC	North Atlantic Coast
NAWCP	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
NAWMP	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
NCF	Nantucket Conservation Foundation
NECIA	Northeast Climate Impacts Assessment
NED	National Elevation Data
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHRC	National State Agency Herpetological Conservation Report
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NWPS	National Wilderness Preservation System
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWRS	National Wildlife Refuge System
PARC	Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation
PIF	Partners in Flight
PL	Public Law
QA/QC	quality assurance / quality control
RONS	Refuge Operating Needs
SAV	submerged aquatic vegetation
SEANET	Seabird Ecological Assessment Network
SHC	Strategic Habitat Conservation
SGCN	species of greatest conservation need
SLAMM	Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model

Acronym	Full Name
SWG	State Wildlife Grant Program
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
TMDL	total maximum daily load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TTOR	The Trustees of Reservations
TWS	The Wildlife Society
USC	United States Code
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WIA	Wilderness Inventory Area
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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 resource management	A process in which projects are implemented within a framework of scientifically driven experiments to test predictions and assumptions outlined within the comprehensive conservation plan. The analysis of the outcome of project implementation helps managers determine whether current management should continue as is, or whether they should modify it to achieve the desired conditions.
agricultural land	nonforested land that is now or recently in orchards, pastures, crops, or other farm products
alternative	a reasonable way to fix an identified problem or satisfy a stated need (40 CFR 1500.2)
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
appropriate use	a proposed or existing use on a refuge that meets at least one of the following three conditions: <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 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; or3. the use has been determined to be appropriate as specified in section 1.11 of the act.
aquatic	growing in, living in, or dependent upon water
barrens	a colloquial name given to habitats with sparse vegetation or low agricultural productivity
basin	the land surrounding and draining into a water body
benthic	living at, in, or associated with structures on the bottom of a body of water
best management practices	land management practices that produce desired results; 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
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

bird conservation region	regions that encompass landscapes having similar bird communities, habitats, and resource issues; used as an administrative tool to aid in the conservation of birds and their habitats
bog	a poorly drained area rich in plant residues, usually surrounded by an area of open water, and having characteristic flora; a type of peatland
breeding habitat	habitat used by migratory birds or other animals during the breeding season
candidate species	species for which we have sufficient information on file about their biological vulnerability and threats to propose listing them as threatened or endangered
categorical exclusion	pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a category of Federal agency actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment (40 CFR 1508.4); also known as CE, CX, CATEX, or CATX.
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
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)
compatibility determination	a required determination for wildlife-dependent recreational uses or any other public uses of a refuge
Comprehensive Conservation Plan	(CCP) mandated by the 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)
conifer	a tree or shrub in the phylum Gymnospermae whose seeds are borne in woody cones. There are 500–600 species of living conifers
conservation	managing natural resources to prevent loss or degradation; includes preservation, restoration, and enhancement
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
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

disturbance	any relatively discrete event in time that disrupts ecosystem, community, or population structure and changes resources, substrate availability, or the physical environment
division	an administrative unit of the refuge defined by a geographic feature, usually a river or other body of water see biological integrity
early successional	species, assemblages, structures, and processes associated with pioneering natural communities that have recently experienced significant disturbance
ecological integrity	see biological integrity
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
ecoregion	a territory 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 listed or State-listed protected species in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range
endemic	a species or race native to a particular place and found only there
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 (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 (40 CFR 1508.11)
estuaries	deepwater tidal habitats and adjacent tidal wetlands that are usually semi-enclosed by land but have open, partly obstructed, or sporadic access to the ocean, and in which ocean water is at least occasionally diluted by freshwater runoff from land

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
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
extirpated	status of a species or population that has completely vanished from a given area but that continues to exist in some other location
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 Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
Federal-recognized Native American Tribe	A group of Native American Indians recognized by the United States as an Indian Tribe. This recognition establishes a Tribe as an entity with the capacity to engage in government-to-government relations with the United States, or individual states, and also as one eligible to receive Federal services. Federal recognition is established as a result of historical and continued existence of a Tribal government; by Executive Order or Legislation; and through the Federal recognition process established by Congress.
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
forbs	flowering plants (excluding grasses, sedges, and rushes) that do not have a woody stem and die back to the ground at the end of the growing season
forest	land dominated by trees
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.
glacial till	unsorted sediments directly deposited by a glacier, typically containing a mixture of clay, sand, gravel and boulders
grassland	a habitat type with landscapes dominated by grasses
groundwater	water in the ground that is in the zone of saturation, from which wells and springs and groundwater runoff are supplied

habitat fragmentation	the breaking up of a specific habitat into smaller, unconnected areas. A habitat area that is too small may not provide enough space to maintain a breeding population of the species in question.
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
habitat	the place where a particular type of plant or animal lives. An organism's habitat must provide all of the basic requirements for life, and should be free of harmful contaminants.
herpetofauna/herpetological	reptiles and amphibians; relating to reptiles and/or amphibians
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, that is used to collect and store water for future use
indigenous	native to an area
indigenous species	a species that, other than as a result of an introduction, historically occurred or currently occurs in a particular ecosystem
integrated pest management	(IPM) sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks.
interpretive facilities	structures that provide information about an event, place, or thing by a variety of means, including printed, audiovisual, or multimedia materials (e.g., kiosks that offer printed materials and audiovisuals, signs, and trail heads.)
interpretive materials	any tool used to provide or clarify information, explain events or things, or increase awareness and understanding of the events or things (e.g., printed materials like brochures, maps or curriculum materials; audio/visual materials like video and audio tapes, films, or slides; and, interactive multimedia materials, CD-ROM or other computer technology.)
intertidal	the area of land along a shoreline that is exposed to air during low tide but covered by water during high tide
invasive species	an alien species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health
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). A CCP should document, describe, and analyze issues even if they cannot be resolved during the planning process (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4).
kettle hole	a generally circular hollow or depression in an outwash plain or moraine, believed to have formed where a large block of subsurface ice has melted
LD-50	The amount of chemical required to provide a lethal dose to 50 percent of the test population
landform	the physical shape of the land reflecting geologic structure and processes of geomorphology that have sculpted the structure
landscape	an aggregate of landforms, together with its biological communities
local agencies	generally, municipal governments, regional planning commissions, or conservation groups
management alternative	a set of objectives and the strategies needed to accomplish each objective (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4)
management plan	a plan that guides future land management practices on a tract
management strategy	a general approach to meeting unit objectives. 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).
maritime	relating to the ocean
Memorandum of Understanding	(MOU) a document that describes an agreement between partners where a set of expectations, actions or commitments are agreed upon
migratory birds	species that generally migrate south each fall from breeding grounds to their wintering grounds and vice versa in the spring
mission statement	a succinct statement of the purpose for which the unit was established; its reason for being
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.)
monitoring	the process of collecting information to track changes of selected parameters over time
moraine	a mass or ridge of earth scraped up by ice and deposited at the edge or end of a glacier

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 (40 CFR 1500).)
National Wildlife Refuge Complex	(refuge complex) an internal Service administrative linking of refuge units closely related by their purposes, goals, ecosystem, or geopolitical boundaries
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 for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, including those that are threatened with extinction
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
natural disturbance event	any natural event that significantly alters the structure, composition, or dynamics of a natural community: e.g., floods, fires, and storms
non-native species	see exotic species
Notice of Intent	(NOI) an announcement we publish in the Federal Register that we will prepare and review an environmental impact statement (40 CFR 1508.22)
objective	A concise, quantitative (where possible) target statement of what a plan will achieve. The planners derive objectives from goals and they provide the basis for determining management strategies. Objectives should be attainable and time-specific.
outwash plain	the plain formed by deposits from a stream or river originating from the melting of glacial ice that are distributed over a considerable area; generally coarser, heavier material is deposited nearer the ice and finer material carried further away
palustrine wetlands	includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean-derived salts less than 0.5 ppt (parts per thousand)
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
payment in lieu of taxes	see Revenue Sharing Act of 1935, Chapter One, Legal Context
plant community	a distinct assemblage of plants that develops on sites characterized by particular climates and soils

preferred alternative	The alternative determined by the decision-maker that best achieves the refuge's purpose, vision, and goals; contributes to the Refuge System mission; addresses the significant issues; and is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management.
prescribed fire or burns	the application of fire to wildland fuels, either by natural or intentional ignition, to achieve identified land use objectives (FWS Manual 621 FW 1.7)
protection	mechanisms that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintaining species populations at a site
public	individuals, organizations, and non-government groups; officials of Federal, State, and local government agencies; Native American tribes, and foreign nations
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
Record of Decision	<p>(ROD) a concise public record of a decision by a Federal agency pursuant to NEPA. A ROD includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the decision; ■ all the alternatives considered; ■ the environmentally preferable alternative; ■ a summary of monitoring and enforcement, where applicable, for any ■ mitigation; and, ■ whether all practical means have been adopted to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected (or if not, why not)
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
refuge lands	lands in which the Service holds full interest in fee title or partial interest like an easement
Refuge Operating Needs System	(RONS) a national database which contains the unfunded operational needs of each refuge. We include projects required to implement approved plans, and meet goals, objectives, and legal mandates.
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 intact	the conservation status category indicating the least possible disruption of ecosystem processes. Natural communities are largely intact, with species and ecosystem processes occurring within their natural ranges of variation.
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
riparian	referring to the interface between freshwater habitats and the terrestrial landscape
riparian habitat	habitat along the banks of a stream or river
runoff	water from rain, melted snow, or agricultural or landscape irrigation that flows over a land surface into a water body
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
Service presence	Service programs and facilities that it directs or shares with other organizations; public awareness of the Service as a sole or cooperative provider of programs and facilities
shrublands	habitats dominated by various species of shrubs
socioeconomic	social and economic conditions and their interplay
species of concern	species not Federal-listed as threatened or endangered, but about which we or our partners are concerned
species richness	a simple measure of species diversity calculated as the total number of species in a habitat or community
staging area	habitat used during bird migration for rest, feeding and congregating
stakeholder	individuals, groups, organizations or agencies representing a broad spectrum of interests offering business, tourism, conservation, recreation, and historical perspectives.
State agencies	natural resource agencies of State governments
State-listed species	see “Federal-listed species”
status assessment	a compilation of biological data and a description of past, present and likely future threats to a species

step-down management plan	a plan for dealing with specific refuge management subjects, strategies, and schedules, e.g., cropland, wilderness, and fire (FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4)
strategy	a specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques for meeting unit objectives
submerged aquatic vegetation	(SAV) plants that live under water, such as seagrasses like eelgrass
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. 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.
upland	dry ground (i.e., other than wetlands)
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.
wet meadows	meadows located in moist, low-lying areas, often dominated by large colonies of reeds or grasses. Saltmarsh meadows are subject to daily coastal tides.
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.

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. A wilderness study area must meet these criteria: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human 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 610 FW 1.5 (draft)).
wildfire	a free-burning fire requiring a suppression response; all fire other than prescribed fire that occurs on wildlands (FWS Manual 621 FW 1.7).
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.