
Appendix C. Glossary

- Assessment** - An activity designed to identify, predict, and quantify information about the impact of an action initiated by man (Munn 1975). Such assessments should address all physical, chemical, biological, economic, and social parameters relevant to the change expected to result from man's proposed action.
- Available habitat** - An area of land or water, or both, composed of one or more cover types, capable of providing direct support for an evaluation species. For example, upland hardwoods could be available habitat for squirrels, but not for bass.
- Average Annual Habitat Unit (AAHU)** - The total number of Habitat Units gained or lost as a result of a proposed action, divided by the life of the action.
- Baseline conditions** - Habitat conditions that occur in a given area prior to any proposed change in land or water use.
- Baseline year** - The point in time when habitat conditions were described before proposed action-induced changes occurred.
- Compensation** - Taking mitigation measures which, in the judgment of the relevant decisionmaker, make wildlife resources whole from unavoidable losses due to a project.
- Cover type** - An area of land or water with similar physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that meets a specified standard of homogeneity.
- Environmental variable** - A variable used in the determination of a Habitat Suitability Index.
- Evaluation** - Value judgments that man must make following examination of information from an assessment (Holling 1978).
- Evaluation species** - Individual animal species, groups of species, life stages of a species, or life requisites of a species selected for purposes of analysis.
- Future with action** - A description of the most probable, estimated future habitat conditions expected to reasonably occur as a result of implementation of a specific action and its reasonable alternatives.
- Future without action** - A description of the most probable, estimated future habitat conditions expected to reasonably occur in the absence of any proposed action plan.
- Guild** - A group of species that share common ecological characteristics. Guilds are defined by guild descriptors that may be general or specific, and the guilds may contain many or few species in response to the number of guild descriptors.

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- Habitat Suitability Index (HSI) - unitless number bounded by 0 and 1 where 0 represents no habitat and 1 represents optimum habitat.
- Habitat Suitability Index model - The rules, in either narrative or mathematical form, by which a Habitat Suitability Index is determined for a particular evaluation species at a particular location. The HSI model consists of two parts: a value of interest (numerator) and a standard of comparison (denominator). The denominator is a description of optimum habitat; the numerator is a description of habitat in the area of interest. The descriptions may be either narrative or mathematical.
- Habitat Unit (HU) - A value derived from multiplying the Habitat Suitability Index for an evaluation species by the size of the area for which the HSI was calculated. The HU provides a standardized basis for comparing habitat changes over time and space.
- Impact segment - An area within the study area that will change uniformly as a result of implementation of a proposed action.
- Impacted species - In a HEP evaluation, species for which there is a predicted increase or decrease in Habitat Units is known as an impacted species.
- In-kind compensation - Complete replacement of losses with the same species or habitats that were lost as a result of some action.
- Instream habitat type - That portion of a stream (study area) which provides the life requisites for a life stage of an organism. This is typically referred to as micro-habitat by the fishery biologist.
- Interspersion - The spatial relationship of cover types to one another. Interspersion is considered for species that must have more than one cover type to meet life requisites.
- Life requisite - Food, water, cover, reproductive, or special requirements of an evaluation species supplied by its habitat.
- Life Stage - Egg, larval, fry, juvenile, or adult stage of a species.
- Negatively impacted species - In a HEP evaluation, a species for which there is a predicted decrease in Habitat Units is known as a negatively impacted species.
- Net impact - The overall change after both gains and losses have been considered in comparing two future conditions.
- Out-of-kind compensation - Complete replacement of losses with difference species or habitats than were lost as the result of some action.

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- Pairwise comparison - A technique to determine the relative importance between any two considerations.
- Proposed action - A change in land or water use by man which results in an alteration of the environment.
- Relative Value Index (RVI) - A value between 0.0 and 1.0 that is used to adjust Habitat Unit data to accommodate socioeconomic and environmental considerations.
- Representative stream reach - A subunit of a stratified stream segment which is selected as the sample site from among a population of candidate reaches.
- Stratified stream segment - A subunit of a stream (study area) which is relatively homogeneous with respect to morphology and physical, chemical, and biological characteristics.
- Stratum descriptor - A term used to define a physical location within a cover type.
- Study area - A specified area of land or water for which habitat conditions are evaluated. There may be more than one study area evaluated as components of a single study name.
- Study name - A general term describing the overall scope of a Habitat Evaluation Procedures application. The study name may consist of multiple study areas.
- Target species - A species for which gains in Habitat Units, obtained through compensation measures, can be used to offset projected habitat loss resulting from a proposed action.
- Target year (TY) - A specific year for which habitat conditions are measured or estimated.
- Trade-off analysis - A consideration of unlike habitats by evaluating the relative values of their wildlife species.
- Weighted useable area - The product of the total surface area of the sampled unit of a stream (i.e., representative reach) and a composite weighting factor which represents the combination of hydraulic conditions present.
- Wildlife - Includes birds, fishes, mammals, and all other classes of wild animals.
- Word model - A narrative description of habitat requirements that can be used to determine the Habitat Suitability Index for an evaluation species.