

---

## GLOSSARY

**Appropriate Use** - a proposed or existing use on a refuge that meets at least one of the following three conditions:

1. The use is a wildlife-dependent use.
2. The use contributes to fulfilling the refuge purpose(s), the National Wildlife 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.
3. The use has been determined to be appropriate as specified in section 1.11 of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act.

**Area of Influence (AOI)** - a generalized area which contains lands of interest to the USFWS and within which the agency will analyze environmental impacts of a proposed action. The AOI for this project was limited to the North Carolina and Tennessee portion of the Blue Ridge Ecoregion. The AOI does not convey authority to establish rules and regulations and is only used to study the effects of a proposal on the human environment, including abiotic, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural resources.

**Biological Diversity (or 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

**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

**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.

**Candidate Species** - plants and animals for which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has sufficient information on their biological status and threats to propose them as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), but for which development of a proposed listing regulation is precluded by other higher priority listing activities.

**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]

**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 [of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service], will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the mission of the [National Wildlife Refuge] System or the purposes of the refuge." – National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 [Public Law 105-57; 111 Stat. 1253]

**Compatibility Determination** - the process in which a wildlife-dependent use or any other public use on a refuge is found to be compatible or incompatible with the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the refuge. This determination is a requirement for wildlife-dependent uses or any other public uses on a refuge.

---

**Compatibility Policy** - “The refuge manager will not initiate or permit a new use of a national wildlife refuge or expand, renew, or extend an existing use of a national wildlife refuge unless the refuge manager has determined that the use is a compatible use.” [Service Manual 603 FW 2.3]

**Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP)** - Mandated by the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, a document that provides a description of the desired future conditions and long-range guidance for the refuge manager to accomplish purposes of the Refuge System and the refuge. CCPs establish management direction to achieve refuge purposes. [Public Law 105-57; Service Manual 602 FW 1.6]

**Conservation Partnership Area (CPA)** - a series of bogs and associated habitat buffers totaling about 42,250 acres. Up to 23,458 acres of proposed refuge lands, easements, etc. would be located within these CPAs.

**Cumulative Impact** - according to NEPA, the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Disjunct** (populations) - populations with a *disjunct* distribution is one that has two or more groups that are related but widely separated from each other geographically.

**Easement** - an agreement by which landowners give up or sell one of their rights on their property (e.g. landowners may donate rights of way across properties). It is a non-possessory interest in a real property owned by another imposing limitations or affirmative obligations with the purpose of returning or protecting the property’s conservation values.

**Endangered** - the classification provided to an animal or plant in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Environmental Assessment (EA)** - a concise public document, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), that discusses the purpose and need for an action, alternatives that were considered, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of the action’s effects to determine whether it is necessary to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (see immediately below) or a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) [40 CFR 1508.9].

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** - a detailed, written analysis of the environmental effects 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 1508.1 1]

**Fee Title** - is a real estate term that means the type of ownership giving the owner the maximum interest in the land, and entitling the owner to use the property in any manner consistent with federal, state, and local laws and ordinances.

**Fen** - low land covered wholly or partially with water; boggy land; a marsh

---

**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]

**Land Protection Plan (LPP)** - a document that identifies and prioritizes lands for potential U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acquisition from a willing seller, and also describes other methods of providing protection (e.g. easements). This document is released with environmental assessments.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** - One of several federal funds that may be used to purchase refuge lands. The primary source of income to this fund is fees paid by companies drilling offshore for oil and gas, as well as oil and gas lease revenues from federal lands. Additional sources of income include the sale of surplus federal real estate and taxes on motorboat fuel.

**National Environmental Policy Act of 1979 (NEPA)** - requires all agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and utilize public participation in the planning and implementation of all actions. Federal agencies must integrate NEPA with other planning requirements and prepare appropriate NEPA documents to facilitate better environmental decision-making. NEPA requires federal agencies to review and comment on federal agency environmental plans and documents when the agency has jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to the environmental impacts involved (42 U.S.C. 4321-4327) (40 CFR 1500-1508).

**National Wildlife Refuge (refuge)** - A designated area of land, water, or an interest in land or water within the Refuge System, but does not include Coordination Areas (Service Manual 603 FW 2.5 N).

**National Wildlife Refuge System (Refuge System)** - "All lands, waters, and interests therein administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, coordination areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife including those that are threatened with extinction as determined in writing by the Director or so directed by Presidential or Secretarial order. The determination by the Director may not be delegated" (Service Manual 603 FW 2.5 I).

**Relict** (populations) - populations that once covered a larger range (e.g., during the last ice age) but have since declined and only remain as small, isolated populations in appropriate habitats.

**Threatened** - any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.