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Willet

Acronyms and Glossary

Acronyms

ACJV	Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
AGO	America's Great Outdoors
AHWP	Annual Habitat Work Plans
ANEC	A&N Electric Cooperative
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
AQI	Air Quality Index
BCC	Birds of Conservation Concern
BCR	Bird Conservation Regions
BIDEH	Biological integrity, diversity, and environmental health
BBS	North American Breeding Bird Survey
CAA	Clean Air Act
CBFS	Chincoteague Bay Field Station
CCB	Center for Conservation Biology
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CD	Compatibility Determination
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFI	Continuous Forest Inventory
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNHA	Chincoteague Natural History Association
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
DRPT	Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EDA	Economic Development Administration
EFL	Eastern Federal Lands
EO	Executive Order
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ERFO	Emergency Relief of Federally Owned Roads Program
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
HMP	Habitat Management Plan
HUD	Housing and Urban Development Administration
IBA	Important Bird Area
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LPP	Land Protection Plan
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSC	Marine Science Consortium
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NABCI	North American Bird Conservation Initiative
NACA	National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics
NADP	National Atmospheric Deposition Program
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NAWCP	North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
NAWMP	North American Waterfowl Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act

NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPS	National Park Service
NWF	North Wash Flats
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWRS	National Wildlife Refuge System
NWPS	National Wilderness Preservation System
OSV	Oversand vehicle
PIF	Partners In Flight
PIT	Passive Integrated Transponder
PPP	Preliminary Plan Proposal
ROD	Record of Decision
SDM	Structured Decision Making
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SLAMM	Sea Level Affecting Marshes Model
SSWG	State Wildlife Grant Program
STAR	Shore Transit and Rideshare
SUP	Special Use Permit
SWF	South Wash Flats
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization
USC	United States Code
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USSCP	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VDCR	Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation
VCAP	Virginia Coastal Avian Partnership
VDF	Virginia Department of Forestry
VDGIF	Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
VMRC	Virginia Marine Resources Commission
VMS	Variable Message Sign
VOP	Virginia Outdoors Plan
WCS	Water Control Structure
WFF	Wallops Flight Facility

Glossary

Adaptive management: Refers to a process in which policy decisions are implemented within a framework of scientifically driven experiments to test predictions and assumptions inherent in a 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.

Alternative: Alternatives are different sets of objectives and strategies or means of achieving refuge purposes and goals, helping fulfill the Refuge System mission, and resolving issues (Service Manual 602 FW 1).

Biological diversity: 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 (Service Manual 052 FW 1). The Refuge System's focus is on indigenous species, biotic communities, and ecological processes. Also referred to as biodiversity.

Climate change: Refers to any significant change in the measures of climate lasting for an extended period of time. In other words, climate change includes major changes in temperature, precipitation, or wind patterns, among others, that occur over several decades or longer.

Comprehensive Conservation Plan: A document that describes the desired future conditions of a refuge or planning unit and provides long-range guidance and management direction to achieve the purposes of the refuge; helps fulfill the mission of the Refuge System; maintains and, where appropriate, restores the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; helps achieve the goals of the NWPS; and meets other mandates (Service Manual 602 FW 1).

Concern: See Issue

Designated Wilderness Area: An area designated by the U.S. Congress to be managed as part of the NWPS (Service Manual 610 FW 1).

Disturbance: Significant alteration of habitat structure or composition. May be natural (e.g., fire) or human-caused events (e.g., aircraft overflight).

Ecosystem: A dynamic and interrelating complex of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.

Endangered species (Federal): A plant or animal species listed under the ESA that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endangered species (State): A plant or animal species in danger of becoming extinct or extirpated in the 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.

Environmental Assessment (EA): A concise public document, prepared in compliance with NEPA, that briefly discusses the purpose and need for an action, alternatives to such action, and provides sufficient evidence and analysis of impacts to determine whether to prepare an environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact (40 CFR 1508.9).

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): A detailed written statement required by section 102(2)(C) of NEPA, analyzing 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).

Estuary: The wide lower course of a river into which the tides flow. The area where the tide meets a river current.

Focal species: Focal species are those that received special management considerations due to their status (threatened or endangered), economic importance, declining population status, high degree of public interest, or similar attributes.

Global sea level rise: Average increase in the level of the world's oceans that occurs due to a variety of factors, the most significant being thermal expansion of the oceans and the addition of water by melting of land-based ice sheets, ice caps, and glaciers.

Goal: Descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units (Service Manual 620 FW 1.6J).

Habitat: Suite of existing environmental conditions required by an organism for survival and reproduction. The place where an organism typically lives.

Habitat type: A land classification system based upon the concept of distinct plant associations.

Invasive species: An alien species whose introduction causes or is likely to cause environmental harm or economic losses or harm human health. An invasive species is usually an aggressive plant or animal that colonizes a habitat and displaces native and beneficial species.

Invertebrates: Any animal lacking a backbone or bony segment that encloses the central nerve cord.

Impoundment: An area of tidal marsh that has been cut off from tidal inundation through the construction of dikes, dams, or water control structures.

Issue: Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision [e.g., an initiative, opportunity, resource management problem, threat to the resources of the unit, conflict in uses, public concern, or other presence of an undesirable resource condition (Service Manual 602 FW 1.6K)].

Management Alternative: See Alternative

Migration: The seasonal movement from one area to another and back.

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

Moist Soil Management: A technique that targets wetlands and their unique cycles of flooding and draining to support wildlife.

Monitoring: The process of collecting information to track changes of selected parameters over time.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): Requires all agencies, including the USFWS, to examine the environmental impacts of their actions, incorporate environmental information, and use 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 (40 CFR 1500).

National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997: Under the Refuge Improvement Act, the USFWS is required to develop 15-year comprehensive conservation plans for all national wildlife refuges outside Alaska. The Act also describes the six public uses given priority status within the Refuge System (i.e., hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, wildlife photography, and environmental education and interpretation) (Public Law 105-57).

National Wildlife Refuge System Mission: The mission is to administer a national network of lands and waters for the conservation, management, and where appropriate, restoration of the fish, wildlife, and plant resources and their habitats within the United States for the benefit of present and future generations of Americans.

National Wildlife 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; or waterfowl production areas.

National Wildlife Refuge: A designated area of land, water, or an interest in land or water within the Refuge System.

Native species: Species that normally live and thrive in a particular ecosystem.

Nor'easter: Winter coastal storm characterized by strong winds from the northeast quadrant over long reaches of coast. These winds are part of a counter clockwise cyclonic atmospheric circulation about a center of atmospheric low pressure at sea. The proximity of warm Gulf Stream water to the colder continent during winter and spring favors the development of such storms.

Objective: A concise statement of what we want to achieve, how much we want to achieve, when and where we want to achieve it, and who is responsible for the work. Objectives derive from goals and provide the basis for determining strategies, monitoring refuge accomplishments, and evaluating the success of strategies. Making objectives attainable, time-specific, and measurable (Service Manual 602 FW 1.6N).

Overwash The process that causes the transportation and deposition of water and sediment over the beach crest.

Preferred Alternative: This is the alternative determined (by the decision-maker) to best achieve the refuge 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.

Priority species: Fish and wildlife species that require protective measures and/or management guidelines to ensure their perpetuation. Priority species include the following: (1) State-listed and candidate species; (2) species or groups of animals susceptible to significant population declines within a specific area or statewide by virtue of their inclination to aggregate (e.g., seabird colonies); and (3) species of recreation, commercial, and/or tribal importance.

Public: Individuals, organizations, and groups; officials of Federal, state, and local government agencies; Indian tribes; and foreign nations. It may include anyone outside the core planning team. It includes those who may or may not have indicated an interest in service issues and those who do or do not realize that USFWS decisions may affect them.

Recreational beach: The swimming beach zone operated on the refuge by NPS that includes seasonal lifeguards, facilities and infrastructure (such as corresponding adjacent parking spaces, visitor contact station, restrooms, pedestrian trails, seasonal bathhouses, and showers). It is currently located at the end of Beach Road, and totals 1 mile of beachfront in length, based on carrying capacity levels evaluated in development with the 1993 Master Plan.

Refuge Goal: See Goal.

Relative sea level rise: The change in sea level relative to the elevation of the adjacent land, which can also subside or rise due to natural or human-induced factors. Relative sea level changes include both global sea level rise and changes in the vertical elevation of the land surface.

Representative species: A representative species is a species whose habitat needs, ecosystem function, or management responses are similar to a group of other species. It is assumed that conservation planning and actions for a representative species will also address the needs of other species.

Resiliency: As in EO 13653: "the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and adapt to changing conditions and withstand, respond to, and recover rapidly from disruptions."

Strategy: A specific action, tool, technique, or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives (Service Manual 602 FW 1.6 U).

Storm surge: The abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tide. It is caused primarily by the winds from a storm and is linked to both tropical and extratropical storms.

Study Area: The area reviewed in detail for wildlife, habitat, and public use potential. For purposes of this CCP, the study area includes the lands within the currently approved refuge boundary and potential refuge expansion areas.

Subsidence: The downward settling of the earth's crust relative to its surrounding. One of the geomorphic drivers of sea level rise.

Sustainability: A dynamic process that guarantees the persistence of natural and human systems in an equitable manner.

Threatened species (Federal): Species listed under the ESA that are likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of their range.

Threatened species (State): A plant or animal species likely to become endangered in the state within the near future if factors contributing to population decline or habitat degradation or loss continue.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission: The mission of the USFWS is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Vegetation type, Habitat type, Forest cover type: A land classification system based upon the concept of distinct plant associations.

Vision Statement: A concise statement of what the planning unit should be, or what we hope to do, based primarily upon the Refuge System mission and specific refuge purposes, and other mandates. We will tie the vision statement for the refuge to the mission of the Refuge System; the purpose(s) of the refuge; the maintenance or restoration of the ecological integrity of each refuge and the Refuge System; and other mandates (Service Manual 602 FW 1.6 Z).

Vulnerability: The propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

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 through inventory as meeting the definition of wilderness and undergoing evaluation for recommendation for inclusion in the Wilderness System. A study area must meet the following criteria: 1. Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; 2. Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; and 3. Has at least 5,000 contiguous roadless acres or is sufficient in size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition (Service Manual 610 FW 1.5).

Wilderness: See Designated Wilderness Area

Wildfire: A free-burning fire requiring a suppression response; all fire other than prescribed fire that occurs on wildlands (Service Manual 621 FW 1.7).