

# *Appendix L*

## *Glossary of Terms*

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## **1. Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Action Plan	California's Wildlife Action Plan
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADT	average daily traffic volumes
AHPA	Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act
APCD	air pollution control district
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ARB	California Air Resources Board
ARPA	Archaeological Resources Protection Act
ATV	all-terrain vehicle
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Colorado River Basin Region
BCR	Bird Conservation Regions
BEST	Biomonitoring of Environmental Status and Trends Program
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CAP	Contaminants Assessment Process
CAPCOA	California Air Pollution Officers Association
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife, formerly Department of Fish and Game (CDFG)
CDPH	California Department of Public
CEQ	President's Council on Environmental Quality
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs	cubic feet per second
cm	centimeter
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO <sub>2</sub>	carbon dioxide
CH <sub>4</sub>	methane
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database Code
Complex	Sonny Bono Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge Complex
CRWB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region
CVAG	Coachella Valley Association of Governments
CVMVCD	Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District

CVWD	Coachella Valley Water District
CWA	Clean Water Act
DDT	dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane
DDE	dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene
DOI	Department of the Interior
DOT	Department of Transportation
EA	environmental assessment
EC	Environmental Contaminants Program of the USFWS
ECC	emergency command center
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EO	Executive order
ES	Ecological Services, USFWS
ESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administrative
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FIFRA	Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FMO	fire management officer
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FR	Federal Register
FTE	full-time equivalent
FY	Fiscal Year
GHGs	greenhouse gases
GPS	Global Positioning System
GS	General Service
HCP	Habitat Conservation Plan
HCPS	Hantavirus cardiopulmonary syndrome
HMP	habitat management plan
HSWA	Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
H <sub>2</sub> S	hydrogen sulfide
IA	Implementing Agreement
IBP	Institute for Bird Populations
ICAPCD	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
Improvement Act	National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPM	integrated pest management
kV	kilovolt
LCC	Landscape Conservation Cooperative
LOS	level of service
LPP	Land Protection Plan
m <sup>2</sup>	square meter
maf	million acre-feet
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MCLs	maximum contaminant levels
mg/kg	milligrams per kilogram
µg/m <sup>3</sup>	micrograms per cubic meter
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement

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MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
mph	miles per hour
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet
MSHCP	Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Program
MSL	mean sea level
Municipal Permit	Municipal Storm Water NPDES Permit
MWD	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAF	Naval Air Facility
NAGPRA	Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
NCCP	Natural Community Conservation Planning
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
ng/g	nanograms per gram
NGOs	non-government organizations
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NIWQP	National Irrigation Water Quality Program
NO <sub>2</sub>	nitrogen dioxide
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NOI	Notice of Intent
NO <sub>x</sub>	oxides of nitrogen
N <sub>2</sub> O	nitrous oxide
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NVCS	National Vegetation Classification Standards
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
NWRC	National Wildlife Refuge Complex
NWRS	National Wildlife Refuge System
O <sub>3</sub>	ozone
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
PAHs	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons
Pb	lead
PCC	Portland cement concrete-grade aggregate
PC Region	production/consumption region
PCBs	polychlorinated biphenyls
PFRG	Pesticide Fate Research Group, U.S. Geological Survey
Plan Committee	North American Waterfowl Management Plan Committee
PM	particulate matter
PM <sub>10</sub>	fugitive dust emissions or “inhalable particles” that are 10 microns (millionths of a meter) or less in diameter
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	fine inhalable particles that are 2.5 microns and smaller
Ppb	parts per billion
ppm	parts per million
ppt	parts per thousand
PUPS	Pesticide Use Proposal System
PUPs	Pesticide Use Proposals
PVC	polyvinyl chloride
QSA	Quantification Settlement Agreement
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
Reclamation	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

ROD	Record of Decision
RONs	Refuge Operating Needs System
RV	recreational vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SAMMS	Service Asset Maintenance Management System
SCAG	Southern California Association of Governments
SCAQMD	South Coast Air Quality Management District
SCE	Southern California Edison
SCH Project	Salton Sea Species Habitat Conservation (SCH) Project
SE	State endangered
Service	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also, USFWS)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SJV	Sonoran Joint Venture
SJVBCP	Sonoran Joint Venture Bird Conservation Plan
SLVBH	sediment bioaccumulation screening levels
SMCL-CA	California Department of Public Health secondary maximum contaminant level
SO <sub>2</sub>	sulfur dioxide
SO <sub>4</sub>	sulfates
SUP	Special Use Permit
SWRCB	California State Water Resources Control Board
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TBT	tributyltin
TDS	total dissolved solids
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TRPH	total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons
UCR	University of California, Riverside
US	United States
USC	United States Code
USACOE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDA APHIS	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (also, Service)
USGS	U. S. Geological Survey
VCD	Vector Control District
VOCs	volatile organic compounds
WERC	Western Ecological Research Center, U. S. Geological Survey
WG	wage grade
WMP	Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Watershed Management Plan
WNV	West Nile Virus
°F	degrees Fahrenheit

## 2. Glossary of Terms

**Accessibility.** The state or quality of being easily approached or entered, particularly as it relates to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Accumulation.** The build-up of a chemical in an organism due to repeated exposure.

**Adaptive Management.** The rigorous application of management, research, and monitoring to gain information and experience necessary to assess and modify management activities. A process that uses feedback from refuge research and monitoring and evaluation of management actions to support or modify objectives and strategies at all planning levels. Analysis of results help managers determine whether current management should continue as is or whether it should be modified to achieve desired conditions.

**Alternative.** A reasonable way to fix an identified problem or satisfy a stated need, or a different set of objectives and strategies or means of achieving refuge purposes and goals, helping fulfill the refuge system mission, and resolving issues.

**Aquatic.** Pertaining to water, in contrast to land.

**Artifact.** An object used or made by humans, usually in reference to projectile points, tools, utensils, art, food remains, and other products of human activity.

**Benthic.** Refers to organisms associated with the bottom of the ocean, bay, lake, or river.

**Biodiversity (Biological Diversity).** Refers to the full range of variability within and among biological communities, including genetic diversity, and the variety of living organisms, assemblages of living organisms, and biological processes. Diversity can be measured in terms of the number of different items (species, communities) and their relative abundance.

**Biological Integrity.** Biotic composition, structure, and functioning at the genetic, organism, and community levels consistent with natural conditions, including the natural biological processes that shape genomes, organisms, and communities.

**Biota.** The plant and animal life of a region.

**Categorical Exclusion.** A category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.

**Compatibility Determination.** A written determination that a proposed or existing use of a National Wildlife Refuge is a compatible use or is not a compatible use.

**Compatible Use.** A proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a National Wildlife Refuge that, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System Mission or the purposes of the Refuge on which the use would occur.

**Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP).** A document that describes the desired future conditions of the 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 National Wilderness Preservation System; and meets other mandates.

**Concern.** See issue.

**Contaminant.** Any introduced gas, liquid, or solid that makes a resource unfit for a specific purpose.

**Critical Habitat.** According to U.S. Federal law, the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend.

**Cultural Resource.** The physical remains of human activity (artifacts, ruins, petroglyphs, etc.) and conceptual content or context of an area such as a traditional sacred site. It includes historically, archaeologically and architecturally significant resources.

**Cultural Resource Inventory.** A professionally conducted study designed to locate and evaluate evidence of cultural resources present within a defined geographic area. Inventories may involve various levels, including background literature search, comprehensive field examination to identify all exposed physical manifestations of cultural resources, or sample inventory to project site distribution and density over a larger area. Evaluation of identified cultural resources to determine eligibility for the National Register follows the criteria found in 36 CFR 60.4.

**Cultural Resource Review.** A comprehensive document prepared for a field office that discusses, among other things, its prehistory and cultural history, the nature and extent of known cultural resources, previous research, management objectives, resource management conflicts or issues, and a general statement on how program objectives should be met and conflicts resolved.

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

**Easement.** A privilege or right that is held by one person or other entity in land owned by another.

**Ecological Integrity.** The integration of biological integrity, natural biological diversity, and environmental health; the replication of natural conditions.

**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 dynamic and interrelating complex of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.

**Ecosystem Approach.** Protecting or restoring the natural function (processes), structure (physical and biological patterns), and species composition of an ecosystem, recognizing that all components are interrelated.

**Ecosystem Management.** Management of natural resources using system-wide concepts to ensure that all plants and animals in ecosystems are maintained at viable levels in native habitats and basic ecosystem processes are perpetuated indefinitely.

**Effect.** A change in a resource, caused by a variety of events including project attributes acting on a resource attribute (direct), not directly acting on a resource attribute (indirect), another project attributes acting on a resource attribute (cumulative), and those caused by natural events (e.g., seasonal change).

**Endangered Species (Federal).** A plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act 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 California within the near future if factors contributing to its decline continue.

**Environment.** The sum total of all biological, chemical, and physical factors to which organisms are exposed; the surroundings of a plant or animal.

**Environmental Assessment (EA).** A concise public document, prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, 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.

**Environmental Education.** A process designed to develop a citizenry that has the awareness, concern, knowledge, attitudes, skills, motivation, and commitment to work toward solutions of current environmental problems and the prevention of new ones. Environmental education within the National Wildlife Refuge System incorporates materials, activities, programs, and products that address the citizen's course of study goals, the objectives of the refuge or unit, and the mission of the Refuge System.

**Environmental Health.** Abiotic composition, structure, and functioning of the environment consistent with natural conditions, including the natural abiotic processes that shape the environment.

**Environmental Impact Report (EIR).** A public disclosure document, required by the California Environmental Quality Act for all discretionary actions proposed by a State, local, or regional agency in the State of California, when a proposed action could result in significant adverse effects on the environment.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).** A detailed written statement required by Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, 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).

**Federal Trust Resources.** 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 of America as a result of Federal acts and treaties. Examples are species listed under the Endangered Species Act, migratory birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other international treaties, and native plant or wildlife species found on the Refuge System.

**Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).** A document prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, supported by an environmental assessment, 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).

**Floodplain.** The relatively flat area along the sides of a river which is naturally subjected to flooding.

**Fluvial.** Pertaining to a river.

**Flyway.** A route taken by migratory birds between their breeding grounds and their wintering grounds. Four primary migration routes have been identified for birds breeding in North America: the Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic Flyways.

**Foraging.** The act of feeding; another word for feeding.

**Forb.** A broad-leaved, herbaceous plant.

**Fragmentation.** The process of reducing the size and connectivity of habitat patches.

**Gastropod.** Any of a large class of mollusks, usually with a univalve shell or no shell and a distinct head bearing sensory organs, such as snails and slugs.

**Goal.** Descriptive, open-ended, and often broad statement of desired future conditions that conveys a purpose but does not define measurable units.

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

**Habitat Fragmentation.** The breaking up of a specific habitat into smaller, unconnected areas.

**Habitat Restoration.** Management emphasis designed to move ecosystems to desired conditions and processes, and/or to healthy ecosystems.

**Habitat Type.** See Vegetation Type.

**Hydrologic Regime.** The local pattern and magnitude of water flow influenced by season.

**Hydrology.** The science dealing with the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on and below the earth's surface and in the atmosphere. The distribution and cycling of water in an area.

**Impact.** Refer to Effect.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM).** Methods of managing undesirable species, such as weeds, including education; prevention, physical or mechanical methods or control; biological control; responsible chemical use; and cultural methods.

**Interpretation.** Interpretation can be an educational and recreational activity that is aimed at revealing relationships, examining systems, and exploring how the natural world and human activities are interconnected.

**Invasive Species.** Species that have been intentionally introduced to or have inadvertently infiltrated an area in which they are not naturally found. Invasive, non-native species compete with native species for food or habitat.

**Inversion.** A state in which the temperature of the air increases with increasing altitude and keeps the surface air and pollutants down.

**Invertebrate.** Animals that do not have backbones. Included are insects, spiders, mollusks (clams, snails, etc.), and crustaceans (shrimp, crayfish, etc.).

**Issue.** Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision (e.g., a Service initiative, 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).

**Landbird.** A category of birds that obtains at least part of their food from the land and nest in mainland areas (though some can also be found on islands). Landbirds include raptors and songbirds among others.

**Landform.** The physical shape of the land reflecting geologic structure and processes of geomorphology that have sculpted the structure.

**Landowner.** A person or entity indicated as the owner of property on the various ownership maps maintained by the Office of the County Assessor.

**Lease.** A legal contract by which rights to use land or water are acquired for a specified period of time for a specified rent or compensation.

**Management Alternative.** A set of objectives and the strategies needed to accomplish each objective [FWS Manual 602 FW 1.4].

**Management Concern.** Refer to Issue.

**Marsh Habitat.** Habitat that is characterized by shallow water and emergent vegetation; unless otherwise specified, this term does not apply to similar habitat found in rivers, drains, or canals.

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

**Migratory Bird.** A bird that seasonally moves between geographic areas.

**Mitigation.** To avoid or minimize impacts of an action by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action; to rectify the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; to reduce or eliminate the impact by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.

**Model.** A mathematical formula that expresses the actions and interactions of the elements of a system in such a manner that the system may be evaluated under any given set of conditions.

**Monitoring.** The process of collecting information to track changes of selected parameters over time. Monitoring is necessary to identify, track and analyze results of management actions at the Refuge so that future management actions may be adapted to obtain the best benefits to wildlife and habitat. See also Adaptive Management.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).** An act which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment, to promote efforts that will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and atmosphere, to stimulate the health and welfare of humans. The act also established the Council on Environmental Quality. The Act requires all agencies, including the Service, 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.

**National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge or NWR).** A designated area of land or water or an interest in land or water within the Refuge System, including National Wildlife Refuges, Wildlife Ranges, Wildlife Management Areas, Waterfowl Production Areas, and other areas (except Coordination Areas) under Service jurisdiction for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife.

**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; games ranges; wildlife management areas; or waterfowl production areas.

**National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997 (Public Law 105-57).** Under the Refuge Improvement Act, the Service 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 NWRS (i.e., hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, environmental education, and interpretation).

**National Wildlife Refuge System Mission.** "The mission of the system 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."

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

**Natural Recruitment.** Plant establishment through natural processes.

**Neotropical Migratory Birds.** Migratory birds that breed in North America and winter in Central and South America.

**No Action Alternative.** An alternative under which existing management would be continued.

**Notice of Intent (NOI).** A notice that is published in the Federal Register announcing that an Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared and considered for a specific action.

**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. Objectives are derived from goals and provide the basis for determining management 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.

**One-Hundred-Year Floodplain.** The relatively flat portion of the river channel that has a one percent chance of being inundated by flood water in any given year.

**Opportunities.** Potential solutions to issues.

**Outreach.** Two-way communication between the Service and the public to establish mutual understanding, promote involvement, and influence attitudes and actions, with goal of improving joint stewardship of our natural resources.

**Flooding.** River flows that exceed the boundaries of the existing river channel and/or levees and flood adjacent areas.

**Paleontological Resource.** Any fossilized remains, traces, or imprints of organisms, preserved in or on the earth's crust, that are of paleontological interest and that provide information about the history of life on earth.

**Passerine Bird.** A songbird or other perching bird that is in the order Passeriformes (blackbirds, crows, warblers, sparrows, and wrens for example).

**Peak Flow.** The maximum discharge of a stream or river during a specified period of time.

**Perennial.** In reference to a body of water, one that contains water year-to-year and that rarely goes dry.

**Permeability.** The property or capacity of porous rock, sediment, or soil to transmit water.

**Phenology.** The life cycle of particular species.

**Planning Area.** The area upon which a planning effort is focused.

**Planning Team.** A team or group of persons working together to prepare a document. Planning teams are interdisciplinary in membership and function and generally consist of a planning team leader, refuge manager and staff biologists, a state natural resource agency representative, and other appropriate program specialists (e.g., social scientist, ecologist, recreation specialist).

**Planning Unit or Unit.** A single refuge, an ecologically or administratively related refuge complex, or distinct unit of a refuge. The planning unit also may include lands currently outside refuge boundaries.

**Plant Association.** A classification of plant communities based on the similarity in dominants of all layers of vascular species in a climax community.

**Plant Community.** An assemblage of plant species of a particular composition. The term can also be used in reference to a group of one or more populations of plants in a particular area at a particular point in time; the plant community of an area can change over time due to disturbance (e.g., fire) and succession.

**Population.** All the members of a single species coexisting in one ecosystem at a given time.

**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.

**Prescribed Fire.** The skillful application of fire to natural fuels under conditions of weather, fuel moisture, soil moisture, etc., that allows confinement of the fire to a predetermined area and produces the intensity of heat and rate of spread to accomplish planned benefits to one or more objectives of habitat management, wildlife management, or hazard reduction.

**Prime Farmland.** Farmland in an area or region that is considered to be the most ideal farmland based on several criteria; usually soil types and land productivity of the land are two of the most important criteria.

**Priority Public Uses.** Compatible wildlife-dependent recreational uses (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, and environmental education and interpretation).

**Proposed Action.** The Service's proposed action for Comprehensive Conservation Plans.

**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 Service decisions may affect them.

**Public Involvement.** A process that offers impacted 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.

**Public Scoping.** See Public Involvement.

**Purpose(s) 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, refuge unit, or refuge subunit.

**Raptor.** A category of carnivorous birds, most of which have heavy, sharp beaks, strong talons, and take live prey (e.g., peregrine falcon, northern harrier). Also referred to as a bird of prey.

**Record of Decision (ROD).** A concise public record of decision prepared by the Federal agency, pursuant to NEPA, that contains a statement of the decision, identification of all alternatives considered, identification of the environmentally preferable alternative, a statement as to whether all practical means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted (and if not, why they were not), and a summary of monitoring and enforcement where applicable for any mitigation.

**Recruitment.** The annual increase in a population as determined by the proportion of surviving offspring produced during a specific period (usually expressed per year).

**Refuge Goal.** Refer to Goal.

**Refuge Operating Needs System (RONS).** A national database that contains the unfunded operational needs of each refuge. The Service includes projects required to implement approved plans and meet goals, objectives, and legal mandates.

**Refuge Purposes.** Refer to Purposes of a Refuge.

**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.

**Refuge Vision.** A succinct statement of the unit's purpose and reason for being.

**Restoration.** The return of an ecosystem to an approximation of its former unimpaired condition.

**Revetment.** A facing of stone, concrete, or other material placed on a riverbank to protect it from erosion.

**Rhizomes.** Rootlike stem growing horizontally below the surface. The rhizome is used for food storage and can produce roots and shoots.

**Riparian.** Refers to 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 which 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 any and all plant life growing on the land adjoining a stream and directly influenced by the stream.

**Riparian Habitat.** Gravel bars, sand dunes, non-vegetated riverbanks, herbaceous, scrub and forested vegetation, which provides habitat for plants, macro-invertebrates, fish and wildlife.

**Riverine.** Freshwater wetlands and deepwater habitats within a channel containing periodically or continuously moving water. It includes wetlands with primarily or mostly submerged vegetation but does not include those wetlands with mostly emergent vegetation or shrubs and trees. This habitat encompasses a river or stream, its channel, and the associated aquatic vegetation. Can also pertain to rivers and floodplains.

**Seiche.** A sudden fluctuation of water levels on a lake or inland sea, potentially the result of an earthquake.

**Sediment.** Any material, carried in suspension by water, which ultimately settles to the bottom of water courses. Sediments may also settle on stream banks or flood plains during high water flow.

**Soil Erosion.** The wearing away of the land's surface by water, wind, ice, or other physical process.

**Songbirds.** A category of birds that includes medium to small, perching landbirds. Most are territorial singers and migratory. (Refer also to Passerines.)

**Sound Professional Judgment.** A finding, determination, or decision that is consistent with principles of sound fish and wildlife management and administration, available science and resources, and adherence to the requirements of the Refuge Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd-668ee), and other applicable laws. Included in the finding, determination, or decision is a refuge manager's field experience and knowledge of the particular refuge's resources.

**Species.** A distinctive kind of plant or animal having distinguishable characteristics, and that can interbreed and produce young. A category of biological classification.

**Species Composition.** A group of species that inhabit a specific habitat type in its healthy state.

**Species Diversity.** Usually synonymous with "species richness," but may also include the proportional distribution of species.

**Step-down Management Plan.** A plan that provides specific guidance on management subjects (e.g., habitat, public use, fire, safety) or groups of related subjects. It describes strategies and implementation schedules for meeting CCP goals and objectives.

**Strategy.** A specific action, tool, or technique or combination of actions, tools, and techniques used to meet unit objectives.

**Study Area.** The area reviewed in detail for wildlife, habitat, and public use potential. For purposes of this CCP/EIS the study area includes the land and water within the approved Refuge boundary.

**Subsidence.** Movement to a lower level or elevation.

**Surface Water.** A body of water that has its upper surface exposed to the atmosphere.

**Terminus.** In reference to a stream or river, its end point; where it flows into a lake or other basin.

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

**Tiering.** The coverage of general matters in broader environmental impact statements with subsequent narrower statements of environmental analysis, incorporating by reference, the general discussions and concentrating on specific issues.

**Trace Elements.** Metallic elements generally occurring in trace amounts in water, including iron, manganese, copper, chromium, arsenic, mercury, and vanadium.

**Turbidity.** Cloudiness of a water body caused by suspended silt, mud, pollutants, or algae.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mission.** "Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

**Upland.** An area where water normally does not collect and where water does not flow on an extended basis. Uplands are non-wetland areas.

**Vegetation.** The composition of plant species, their frequency of occurrence, density, and age classes at a specified scale.

**Vegetation Community.** Refer to Plant Community.

**Vegetation Type or Habitat Type.** A land classification system based upon the concept of distinct plant associations.

**Waterfowl.** A group of birds that include ducks, geese, and swans (belonging to the order Anseriformes).

**Watershed.** The entire land area that collects and drains water into a river or river system.

**Wetland.** Land that is transitional between upland (terrestrial) and aquatic systems (greater than about 6-feet deep) where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water.

**Wetland Habitat.** Habitat provided by shallow or deep water (but less than 6-feet deep), with or without emergent and aquatic vegetation in wetlands. Wetland habitat only exists when and where a wetland or portion of a wetland is covered with water (visible surface water). Consequently, the size and shape of "wetland habitat" will fluctuate from season to season and year to year while the size and shape of the "wetland" within which wetland habitat occurs will remain constant from season to season and from year to year.

**Wildfire or Wildland Fire.** A free-burning fire requiring a suppression response; all fire other than prescribed fire that occurs on wildlands.

**Wildlife.** All non-domesticated animal life; included are vertebrates and invertebrates.

**Wildlife 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 of reproduction of its migrants.

**Wildlife-dependent Recreational Use.** "A use of a refuge involving hunting, fishing, wildlife observation and photography, or environmental education and interpretation." These are the six priority public uses of the Refuge System as established in the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, as amended.