

Appendix F

Glossary of Terms

- Alternative* A refuge management pattern designed to accomplish a desired end result. May be presented in the form of refuge objectives and strategies.
- Biological Diversity* The variety of life forms and processes, including the complete natural complex of species, communities, genes, and ecological functions.
- Compatible Use* A wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use on a refuge that will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes(s) for which the refuge was established.
- Comprehensive Conservation Plan* ... A document that guides management decisions, and outlines management actions to be used to accomplish the mission of the System and the purposes of the refuge unit.
- Conservation Easement* A legal document that provides specific land-use rights to a secondary party.
- Cultural Resources* The physical remains of human activity (e.g., artifacts, ruins and burial mounds) and conceptual content or context (as a setting for legendary, historic, or prehistoric events, such as a sacred area of native peoples) of an area. It includes historically, archaeologically and/or architecturally significant resources.
- Degradation* A process of transition from a higher to a lower quality of fish and wildlife habitat.
- Diversity* Variety; usually used in reference to the number of species or living organisms in a given area, including some reference to their abundance.
- Ecosystem* The sum of all interacting parts of plant and animal communities and their associated non-living environment.
- Ecosystem Approach* A strategy or plan to manage the natural function, structure, and species composition of an ecosystem, recognizing that all components are interrelated, as opposed to a strategy or plan for managing individual species.
- Ecosystem Management* Management of an ecosystem that includes all ecological, social, and economic components which make up the whole of the system.
- Endangered Species* Any species of plant or animal defined through the Endangered Species Act as being in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and published in the Federal Register.

<i>Environment</i>	The surroundings of a plant or animal.
<i>Environmental Assessment</i>	A systematic analysis of site-specific or programmatic activities used to determine whether such activities have a significant effect on the quality of the physical, biological, and human environment.
<i>Estuary</i>	An arm of the sea that extends inland to meet the mouth of a river.
<i>Extinct</i>	No longer existing.
<i>Fauna</i>	The animals of a particular region, taken collectively.
<i>Flora</i>	The plants of a particular region, taken collectively.
<i>Fuel</i>	Living and dead plant material that is capable of burning.
<i>Habitat</i>	A place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.
<i>Habitat Diversity</i>	In reference to the variety in habitat; structural and compositional variety of habitat.
<i>Habitat Management Plan</i>	A written plan that outlines the management strategy of plant or animal species in the area where they naturally or normally live and grow.
<i>Herbicide</i>	A chemical agent used to kill plants or inhibit plant growth.
<i>Issue</i>	Any unsettled matter that requires a management decision.
<i>Mitigation</i>	Avoiding or minimizing impacts of an action by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action; rectifying the impact by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment; reducing or eliminating the impact by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action.
<i>Mosaic</i>	A variety of different habitats intermixed in a relatively small area. In the same manner, several successional stages intermixed within a vegetation type.
<i>National Environmental Policy Act</i> ..	An act which encourages productive and enjoyable harmony between humans and their environment, to promote efforts which will prevent or eliminate damage to the environment and biosphere, to stimulate the health and welfare of humans, to enrich our understanding of the ecological systems and natural resources important to our Nation, and to establish a council on environmental quality.
<i>Native</i>	This term describes plant and animal species, habitats, or communities that originated in a particular region or area, or those that have established in a particular region or area without the influence of humans.

<i>National Wildlife Refuge System</i>	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, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish, wildlife, and plant resources.
<i>Prescribed Burning</i>	The intentional application of fire to vegetation under specific environmental conditions to accomplish specific management objectives in specific areas identified in approved prescribed fire plans.
<i>Raptor</i>	A bird of prey such as a hawk, eagle or owl.
<i>Refuge Agreements</i>	Refuge Agreements include those agreements between the refuge and other federal, state, and local entities for refuge operations (e.g., a multi-agency visitors' center, law enforcement, and wildfire suppression and prescribed burning).
<i>Refuge Goals</i>	Statements that describe a desired condition. Refuge goals are expressed in broad, general terms. They provide direction for developing objectives.
<i>Refuge Objectives</i>	Concise statements that describe, in measurable terms, desired conditions, and thus provide focal points for directing management activities. They describe desired conditions in greater detail than refuge goals. Refuge goals and core problems provide the basis from which objectives are developed.
<i>Reintroduction</i>	A plant or animal species that is introduced by humans to a range that it formerly occupied.
<i>RONs</i>	Refuge Operating Needs System - A refuge planning, budgeting, and communication tool.
<i>Scoping</i>	A process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the comprehensive conservation plan and for identifying the significant issues. It is a process whereby the public and federal, state, and local agencies are invited to participate.
<i>Shrub</i>	A plant usually with several woody stems; a bush. A shrub differs from a tree by its low height.
<i>Species</i>	A distinctive kind of plant or animal having distinguishable characteristics, and that can interbreed and produce young. A category of biological classification.
<i>Stakeholder Group</i>	A group of citizens representing a broad spectrum of interests offering business, tourism, conservation, recreation, and historical perspectives.
<i>Strategies</i>	Specific actions, tools and techniques that could be used to meet refuge goals and objectives, and provide direction for defining and coordinating operational tasks to effectively perform the refuge's purpose.
<i>Threatened Species</i>	Those plant or animal species likely to become

endangered species throughout all or a significant portion of their range within the foreseeable future. A plant or animal identified and defined in accordance with the 1973 Endangered Species Act and published in the Federal Register.

- Vegetation* Plants in general, or the sum total of the plant life in an area.
- Vegetation Type* A category of land based on potential or existing dominant plant species of a particular area.
- Watershed* The entire land area that collects and drains water into a stream or stream system.
- Wetland* Areas such as lakes, marshes, and streams that are inundated by surface or ground water for a long enough period of time each year to support, and do support under natural conditions, plants and animals that require saturated or seasonally saturated soils.
- Wildlife Diversity* A measure of the number of wildlife species in an area and their relative abundance.
- Wildlife Management* The art and science of producing, maintaining, benefitting, and/or enhancing wildlife populations and their associated habitats.