

Glossary

Glossary of Terms

accretion – slow addition to land by deposition of water-borne sediment.

agricultural land – nonforested land, due to its current or recent use for orchards, pasture, hay or crops.

alternative – a reasonable way to fix the identified problem or satisfy the stated need (40 CFR 1500.2) [see also management alternative below].

biological or natural diversity – the variety of life in all its forms.

breeding habitat – habitat used by migratory birds or other animals during the breeding season.

buffer zones – protective land borders around critical habitats or water bodies that reduce runoff and non-point source pollution loading; areas created or sustained to lessen the negative effects of land development on animals and plants and their habitats.

CFR – Code of Federal Regulations.

community type – a particular assemblage of plants and animals, named for the characteristic plants.

compatible use – an allowed use that will not materially interfere with or detract from the purposes for which the unit was established (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

compatibility determination – a compatible use is one which, in the sound professional judgement of the Refuge Manager, will not materially interfere with or detract from fulfillment of the Refuge System mission or refuge purpose(s).

concern – see Issue.

conservation – the management of natural resources to prevent loss or waste. Management actions may include preservation, restoration, and enhancement.

cool-season grass – introduced grass for crop and pastureland that grows in spring and fall and is dormant during hot summer months.

cooperative agreement – the legal instrument used when the principal purpose of the transaction is the transfer of money, property, services or anything of value to a recipient in order to accomplish a public purpose authorized by federal statute and substantial involvement between the Service and the recipient is anticipated.

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 (Service Manual 614 FW 1.7).

cultural resource overview – 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 re-

sources, previous research, management objectives, resource management conflicts or issues, and a general statement on how program objectives should be met and conflicts resolved. An overview should reference or incorporate information from a field offices background or literature search described in Section VIII. of the Cultural Resource Management Handbook (Service Manual 614 FW 1.7).

database – a collection of data arranged for ease and speed of analysis and retrieval, usually computerized.

designated wilderness area – an area designated by the United States Congress to be managed as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System (Draft Service Manual 610 FW 1.5).

digitizing – the process of converting information from paper maps into geographically referenced electronic files for a geographic information system (GIS).

easement – an agreement by which a landowner gives up or sells one of the rights on his/her property. For example, a landowner may donate a right of way across his/her property to allow community members access to a river. See also conservation easement.

ecosystem – a natural community of organisms interacting with its physical environment, regarded as a unit.

ecotourism – a type of tourism that maintains and preserves natural resources as a basis for promoting economic growth and development resulting from visitation to an area.

ecosystem approach – a way of looking at socio-economic and environmental information based on the boundaries of ecosystems rather than based on town, city, and county boundaries.

emergent wetland – wetlands dominated by erect, rooted, herbaceous plants.

endangered species – a federally protected species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

environmental education – education aimed at producing a citizenry that is knowledgeable concerning the biophysical environment and its associated problems, aware of how to help solve these problems, and motivated to work toward their solution.

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 (40 CFR 1508.9).

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).

exemplary community type – an outstanding example of a particular community type.

extirpated – no longer occurring in a given geographic area.

Federal land – public land owned by the Federal government, including lands such as National Forests,

National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges.

Federal-listed species – a species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, either as endangered, threatened or species at risk (formerly candidate species).

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).

forbs – A flowering plant, excluding grasses, sedges, and rushes, that does not have a woody stem and dies back to the ground at the end of the growing season.

forested land – land dominated by trees. For the purposes of the impacts analysis in this document, all forested land was assumed to have the potential to be occasionally harvested, and forested land owned by timber companies was assumed to be harvested on a more intensive, regular schedule.

forested wetlands – wetlands dominated by trees.

geographic information system (GIS) – a computerized system used to compile, store, analyze and display geographically referenced information. Can be used to overlay information layers containing the distributions of a variety of biological and physical features.

habitat fragmentation – breaking up of a specific habitat into smaller unconnected areas. A habitat area that is too small may not provide enough space to maintain a breeding population of the species in question.

habitat conservation – the protection of an animal or plant's habitat to ensure that the use of that habitat by the animal or plant is not altered or reduced.

habitat – the place where a particular type of plant or animal lives. An organism's habitat must provide all of the basic requirements for life and should be free of harmful contaminants.

interjurisdictional fish – populations of fish that are managed by two or more states or national or tribal governments because of the scope of their geographic distributions or migrations.

interpretive facilities – structures that provides information about an event, place or thing by a variety of means including printed materials, audiovisuals or multimedia materials. Examples of these would be kiosks which offer printed materials and audiovisuals, signs and trailheads.

interpretive materials – any tool used to provide or clarify information, explain events or things, or serve to increase awareness and understanding of the events or things. Examples of these would be: (1) printed materials such as brochures, maps or curriculum materials; (2) audio/visual materials such as videotapes, films, slides, or audio tapes; and (3) interactive multimedia materials, such as cd-rom and other computer technology.

issue – any unsettled matter that requires a management decision; e.g., a Service initiative, an opportunity, a management problem, a threat to the resources of the unit, a conflict in uses, a public concerns, or the presence of an undesirable resource condition. Issues should be documented, described, and analyzed in the CMP even if resolution cannot be accomplished during the planning process (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

land trusts – organizations dedicated to conserving land by purchasing land, receiving donations of lands, or accepting conservation easements from landowners.

local land – public land owned by local governments, including community or county parks, or municipal watersheds.

local agencies – generally referring to municipal governments, regional planning commissions or conservation groups.

long term protection – mechanisms such as fee title acquisition, conservation easements or binding agreements with landowners that ensure land use and land management practices will remain compatible with maintenance of the species population at the site.

management alternative – a set of objectives and the strategies needed to accomplish each objective (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

management concern – see Issue.

management opportunity – see Issue.

management plan – a plan that guides future land management practices on a tract of land.

management strategy – a general approach to meet unit objectives. A strategy may be broad, or it may be detailed enough to guide implementation through specific actions, tasks, and projects (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

mission statement – succinct statement of the unit's purpose and reason for being.

mitigation – actions taken to compensate for the negative effects of a particular project. Wetland mitigation usually takes the form of restoration or enhancement of a previously damaged wetland or creation of a new wetland.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) – 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 (from 40 CFR 1500).

National Wildlife Refuge System – all lands and waters and interests therein administered by the Service as wildlife refuges, wildlife ranges, wildlife management areas, waterfowl production areas, and other areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife, including those that are threatened with extinction.

native plant – a plant that has grown in the region since the last glaciation and occurred before European settlement.

non-point source pollution – nutrients or toxic substances that enter water from dispersed and uncontrolled sites.

Notice of Intent (NOI) – a notice that an environmental impact statement will be prepared and considered (40 CFR 1508.22). Published in the Federal Register.

outdoor education projects – any cooperative ventures that combine the financial and staff resources to develop and implement outdoor education activities such as labs, field trips, surveys, or monitoring/sampling efforts.

outdoor education – educational activities that take place in an outdoor setting.

Partners for Wildlife Program – a voluntary habitat restoration program undertaken by the Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with other governmental agencies, public and private organizations, and private landowners to improve and protect fish and wildlife habitat on private lands while leaving the land in private ownership.

partnership – a contract or agreement entered into by two or more individuals, groups of individuals, organizations or agencies in which each agrees to furnish a part of the capital or some in-kind service, i.e., labor, for a mutually beneficial enterprise.

payment in lieu of taxes – see Revenue Sharing Act of 1935, Chapter One, Legal Context.

planning area – The area upon which the planning effort will focus. A planning area may include lands outside existing planning unit boundaries currently studied for inclusion in the Refuge System and/or partnership planning efforts. It may also include watersheds or ecosystems outside of our jurisdiction that affect the planning unit.

population monitoring – assessments of the characteristics of populations to ascertain their status and establish trends related to their abundance, condition, distribution, or other characteristics.

prescribed fire – the application of fire to wildland fuels to achieve identified land use objectives (Service Manual 621 FW 1.7), either from natural or intentional ignition.

private land – land that is owned by a private individual, group of individuals, or non-governmental organization.

private landowner – any individual, group of individuals or non-governmental organization that owns land.

private organization – any non-governmental organization.

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 involvement plan – broad long term guidance for involving the public in the comprehensive planning process.

public land – land that is owned by the local, state, or Federal government.

rare species – species identified in Appendix A as Species of Special Emphasis due to their uncommon occurrence within the planning area.

rare community types – plant community types classified as rare by any of the four state Natural Heritage Programs. The types are listed in Appendix A.

refuge goals – descriptive, open-ended and often broad statements of desired future conditions that convey a purpose but do not define measurable units.

refuge purposes – the purposes specified in or derived from the law, proclamation, executive order, agreement, public land order, donation document, or administrative memorandum establishing, authorizing, or expanding a refuge, a refuge unit, or refuge subunit, and any subsequent modification of the original establishing authority for additional conservation purposes (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

refuge lands – those lands in which the Service holds full interest in fee title, or partial interest such as easements.

restoration – the artificial manipulation of a habitat to restore it to its former condition. Involves taking a degraded grassland and re-establishing habitat for native plants and animals. Restoration usually involves the planting of native grasses and forbs, and may include shrub removal and prescribed burning.

species at risk – a species being considered for listing as a federally endangered or threatened species.

species of concern – a species not on the federal list of threatened or endangered species, but a species for which the Service or one of its partners has concerns.

state land – public land owned by a state such as state parks or state wildlife management areas.

state agencies – generally referring to natural resource arms of the state governments of Virginia.

step-down management plans – step-down management plans describe management strategies and implementation schedules. Step-down management plans are a series of plans dealing with specific management subjects (e.g., croplands, wilderness, and fire) (Service Manual 602 FW 1.4).

stopover habitat – habitat used during bird migration for rest and feeding.

threatened species – a federally protected species which is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

trust resource – one that through law or administrative act is held in trust for the people by the government. A federal trust resource is one for which trust responsibility is given in part to the federal government through federal legislation or administrative act. Generally, federal trust resources are those considered to be of national or international importance no matter where they occur, such as endangered species and species such as migratory birds and fish that regularly move across state lines. In addition to species, trust resources include cultural resources protected through federal historic preservation laws, nationally important and threatened habitats, notably wetlands, navigable waters, and public lands such as state parks and national wildlife refuges.

unfragmented habitat – large blocks of unbroken habitat of a particular type.

upland – dry ground; other than wetlands.

vision statement – 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 (Service Manual, 602 FW 1.5).

warm-season grass – native prairie grass that puts on the most growth during summer when cool-season grasses are dormant.

wetlands – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s definition of wetlands states that “Wetlands are 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.” (Cowardin et al 1979)

wilderness – see designated wilderness.

wildlife management – the practice of manipulating wildlife populations, either directly through regulating the numbers, ages, and sex ratios harvested, or indirectly by providing favorable habitat conditions and alleviating limiting factors.