



Glossary

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biodiversity — the variety of life in an area, including the different genes, species, plant and animal communities, ecosystems, and their interactions

CITIES – regulations of international trade to prevent the decline of species threatened with extinction

decomposer — organisms (bacteria, fungi) that convert dead organic material into inorganic materials

detritus — dead plant, animal, and other organic matter

diversity — variety; abundance of species

ecosystem — consists of all the living parts (plants and animals) and nonliving parts (such as soil, air, and water) in any size area, interacting and linked together by energy and nutrient flow

ecosystem management – the integration of ecological, economic, and social principles to manage biological and physical systems for long-term ecological sustainability

endangered species — any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range

endemic — a species restricted to a certain area due to specific habitat conditions

Endangered Species Act — was signed into law by Congress and President Nixon in 1973; the law protects threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems they depend on

extinction — the elimination of a species from existence

extirpation — the elimination of a species from a significant portion of its range

genetic diversity – the different mix of genes each individual plant has within its species

gestation period — the period in mammals from fertilization to birth

generalists — adaptable to many environmental conditions; does not have specific needs

habitat — the place where a plant or animal lives that includes food, water, shelter, and space in an arrangement the species needs

herbivore — a plant eater

herbicide — a substance (usually chemical) used to kill plants

impoundments — a structure that blocks water in a reservoir; a dam

integrated pest management — (IPM) the management of pest species by considering and using a blend of control options, including cultural, ecological, mechanical, chemical, and biological methods. The choices of control methods must be ecologically compatible.

karst — an area of irregular limestone in which erosion has produced fissures, sinkholes, underground streams and caves

Lacey Act – outlaws the import, export, and sale, both interstate and international, of wildlife and wild plants taken in violation of international and state law

Migratory Bird Treaty Act – protects birds that migrate across international borders

native (indigenous) – species that occurs naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, or habitat without direct or indirect human actions

neotropical migratory bird — birds that spend their summers in Canada and the United States and their winters in Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America

nonnative (non-indigenous) — species that do not occur naturally in a particular region, state, ecosystem, or habitat, but have been directly or indirectly introduced by human actions

nonpoint source pollution — pollution problems that cannot be traced to one specific location

omnivore — animals that eat both plants and animals

poaching — the illegal hunting or taking of fish and wildlife

predation — the act of one animal preying upon and killing another animal

point source pollution — any type of pollution that can be identified as coming from a specific source

population — the number of a particular species that exists in a defined area

range — the land upon which a species lives, the area in which an animal travels in the scope of normal activities

recovery plans — documents prepared for listed species that detail the specific tasks needed to recover the species

reintroduction — management technique where a species is reintroduced into its historic range; replanting of plants and animals in areas where they had been extirpated

riparian — located or living near or along a river or body of water

rhizome — root-like stem growing horizontally under or along the ground that sends up shoots and leaves from its upper surface and sends down roots from its lower surface

sediment — organic and inorganic (silt) matter floating in the water and on the river/lake bottom

sedimentation — the process of sediments being carried into a river or lake

silt — very fine particles of earth, sand, clay, etc.

speciation — the natural process (evolution) by which new species are formed

specialists — plant or animal that has specific habitat needs to survive; not adaptable to many environmental conditions

species — group of living beings, or organisms, that are similar in physical structure and behavior

take — to harass, harm, pursue, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct toward, any threatened or endangered species; the Endangered Species Act makes it illegal to take any threatened or endangered species.

threatened species — any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the near future throughout all or a significant portion of its range

watershed — the land area from which surface runoff drains into a stream, lake reservoir, or other body of water