

Glossary of Terms

General Terms

Endemic: Characteristic of or prevalent in a particular field, area, or environment.

Extirpation: To destroy completely or to pull up by the root.

Habitat: The natural area or environment where an organism or ecological community of plants and animals normally lives or occurs.

Riparian: Relating to or inhabiting the banks of a natural course of water; examples include areas along streams, creeks, and rivers.

Upland: Land that lies above the level where water flows or where flooding occurs; examples include hills, hummocks, and mounds where grasses, shrubs, and trees grow.

Wetland: A low-lying area with that is permanently, seasonally, or intermittently saturated with moisture; examples include marshes, floodplains, creeks, and ponds.

Species Terms

Endangered: A species on the brink of extinction.

Extinct: A species that has no living representatives.

Native: Plants or animals that naturally originate, grow, feed, and reproduce in a particular habitat or environment.

Non-native: Plants or animals originating in a part of the world that is different from where they are growing; also called exotic, alien, introduced, or invasive species.

Species of Special Concern: A species that is declining in number or has naturally small populations susceptible to extinction.

Threatened: A species experiencing serious threats that may eventually lead to its extinction.

Water Terms

Alkaline: Contains a relatively low concentration of hydrogen ions and a PH greater than 7; sometimes contains metals.

Fresh: From rain, snow melt, and associated run off; does not contain salt.

Hypersaline: Contains extra salt in the solution.

Permanently saturated: Water saturates the environment year-round.

Saline: Of, relating to, or containing salt; salty.

Seasonally saturated: Water saturates the environment only during winter or spring rains.

Plant Terms

Metapopulation: Separate populations between which there is some migration and gene flow; may function as a single population due to occasional interbreeding.