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CHAPTER X. GLOSSARY AND ACRONYMS



A

Abundance

The number of individuals of a particular species.

Advanced Space-borne Thermal Emissions Reflection Radiometer (ASTER)

An imaging instrument onboard Terra, the flagship satellite of NASA's Earth Observing System (EOS). ASTER data is used to create detailed maps of land surface temperature, reflectance, and elevation.

Advisory Team Partners

Organizations or agencies that identified themselves when they completed the conservation partner survey by indicating they wanted to be involved in the development of SWAP and that their organization had a large reach or significant impact on wildlife in Indiana.

Aggregated

A totaling of all data received relative to a designated factor.

Agriculture

Lands devoted to commodity production, including intensively managed non-native grasses, row crops, and fruit and nut-bearing trees.

American Electric Power (AEP)

A major investor-owner electric utility in the United States, delivering electricity to more than five million customers in 11 states.

Aquatic Systems

All water habitats (both flowing and stationary) in Indiana, including lakes, reservoirs, rivers, streams, and other waterways, but excluding wetlands.

B

Barren Lands

Lands dominated by exposed rock or minerals with sparse vegetation.

Best Management Practices (BMP)

Practice, or a combination of practices, that determined to be an effective and practical means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals.

Biodiversity

The number and variety of organisms found within a specified geographic region. The variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species and within and between ecosystems.

Bogs

An area having a wet, spongy, acidic substrate composed chiefly of sphagnum moss and peat in which characteristic shrubs and herbs and sometimes trees usually grow. Bogs are usually acid areas, frequently surrounding a body of water. Bogs receive water exclusively from rainfall.

Breeding Range

The geographic region or area in which a species reproduces.

Buffer Zone

An area maintained in a land use that provides a transition zone between two types of habitats. In conservation, buffer zones are neutral areas between wildlife habitats and areas that have been highly disturbed by humans. An area planted with a variety of grasses may be a buffer zone between a wetland and an urban development.

C

Candidate Species

A species of plants or animals classified as a candidate for possible listing as endangered or threatened by a government agency.

Channelization

Straightening of a stream or dredging of a new channel to which the stream is diverted, resulting in the removal of its sinuosity (bends).

Classified Forest and Wildlands Program

Encourages timber production, watershed protection, and wildlife habitat management on private lands in Indiana. Program landowners receive a property tax reduction in return for following a professionally written management plan. In addition to the tax incentive, landowners receive free technical assistance from DNR foresters and wildlife biologists, priority for cost share to offset the cost of doing management, and the ability to "green" certify their forests. The minimum requirement for program enrollment is ten acres of forest, wetland, shrubland, and/or grassland.

Community Types

A group of populations or species that interrelate directly with each other and their specific environment. Characteristics used for identifying community types include factors such as water regimes, soils, substrate type, topographic position (elevation), plant species composition, and animal associations. 61 community types have been identified within Indiana. Information on community types is maintained by the Indiana DNR Division of Nature Preserves Conservation—The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of wildlife and of natural resources such as forests, soil, and water.

Comprehensive Wildlife Strategy (CWS)

A habitat-based model and was the state's first effort to acquire statewide habitat data.

Conservation Community

One that is united or associated with another or others in an activity or a sphere of common interest; organizations or individuals capable of supporting conservation actions.

Conservation Easements

A voluntary binding agreement that permanently limits a particular property to conservation-compatible uses.

Conservation Opportunity Area (COA)

Potential conservation opportunity areas may be significant to the conservation of biodiversity because they contain one or a combination of the following: a large area of natural vegetation, predicted habitat for rare species, or a documented occurrence of a rare species.

Conservation Practices

Specific actions taken to protect, preserve, manage, or restore wildlife and natural resources. Examples include establishing windbreaks, stream bank stabilization, and tree planting. Incentive programs may list the particular kinds of conservation practices for which cost-share funding is available.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

A voluntary program for agricultural landowners. Through CRP, landowners can receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term vegetative cover practices on eligible farmland.

Contaminant

A toxin, hazardous substance, or pollutant introduced into the environment through human activity, either directly or as a byproduct.

Core Team

A diverse group of DFW employees assigned to work with the project leaders to develop the SWAP.

Culling

Selective removal of particular individuals from a population to achieve an overall improvement in the health of the population. Can be done to reduce overall population size or to remove only individuals with certain undesirable characteristics, such as those that are diseased or of a certain age or size class.

D

Degradation

A decline in conditions or characteristics of wildlife species or habitat to a lower condition, quality or level.

Developed Lands

Highly impacted lands intensively modified to support human habitation, transportation, commerce, and recreation.

Distribution

The geographic area over which a species occurs.

Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW)

Professionally manage Indiana's fish and wildlife for present and future generations, balancing ecological, recreational, and economic benefits.

Division of Nature Preserves (DNP)

The system's purpose is to provide permanent protection for significant natural areas within the state."

Ducks Unlimited (DU)

The world's leader in wetlands and waterfowl conservation.

E

Endangered Species (Federal Classification)

Any species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Endangered Species (State Classification)

Any animal species whose prospects for survival or recruitment within the state are in immediate jeopardy and are in danger of disappearing from the state. This includes all species classified as endangered by the federal government that occur in Indiana.

Environmental Site Assessments (ESA)

An environmental site assessment commonly done prior to commercial or industrial property transactions to assess the likelihood of contamination and the liability for clean-up if contamination is found.

Extirpated (State Classification)

Any animal species that has been absent from Indiana as a naturally occurring breeding population for more than 15 years.

Extrapolation

To infer or estimate by extending or projecting from known information by assuming that the estimated value or condition follows logically from known values.

F

Fens

A type of wetland ecosystem characterized by peaty soil, dominated by grass-like plants, grasses, sedges, and reeds. Fens are alkaline rather than acid areas, receiving water mostly from surface and groundwater sources.

Fish and Wildlife Area (FWA)

Land and habitats where fish and wildlife reside.

Foraging Areas

An area where animals look for food.

Forest Lands

Lands characterized by a plant community extending over a large area and dominated by trees, the crowns of which form an unbroken covering layer or canopy.

Fragmentation

Scattered or patchy distribution of a particular habitat type in an area that once was continuous habitat.

G

Genetic Pollution

The dispersal of genes to natural organisms, especially by cross-pollination or introduction of closely related exotic species or genetically engineered organisms. Resulting progeny may be less well adapted to the local environment.

Geographical Information System (GIS)

A computer system for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying map-based data related to positions on the Earth's surface.

Grasslands

Open areas dominated by grass species (e.g., prairies or reclaimed mine lands).

Guild

The group of wildlife species associated with a particular habitat type.

H

Habitat

The type of environment in which an organism or group normally lives or occurs.

Hybridization

Interbreeding of different species or varieties of animals or plants, producing a genetic cross. In some cases, hybrids are sterile or produce offspring that are less well adapted to the environment.

I

Impoundment

A body of water, such as a reservoir, made by damming flowing waters.

Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)

A scientific tool used to identify and classify water pollution problems.

Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM)

IDEM's mission is to implement federal and state regulations to protect human health and the environment while allowing the environmentally sound operations of industrial, agricultural, commercial, and government activities vital to a prosperous economy.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

The mission of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources is to protect, enhance, preserve, and wisely use natural, cultural, and recreational resources for the benefit of Indiana's citizens through professional leadership, management, and education.

Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)

INDOT is responsible for state roads, interstates and U. S. routes including adjacent overpasses and ramps on these roadways.

Indiana Farm Bureau (IFB)

A leader in auto and homeowners insurance and is the largest writer of farm insurance in the Hoosier state.

Indiana Forest & Woodlands Owners Association (IFOWA)

A nonprofit organization with the goal of promoting good stewardship of Indiana woodlands.

Indiana Land Protection Alliance (ILPA)

A collaboration of land conservation organizations working around the state of Indiana.

Indiana State Department of Agricultural (ISDA)

ISDA will support growth in Indiana agriculture by serving as an advocate at the local, state and federal level; defining and nurturing economic opportunity in the food, fuel and fiber sectors; and enhancing the stewardship of natural resources on agricultural land.

Indiana State University (ISU)

Indiana State University is a public university located in Terre Haute, IN.

Indiana Wildlife Federation (IWF)

Indiana Wildlife Federation is a statewide, non-profit organization of individuals and over 50 Indiana conservation clubs and organizations dedicated to the wise use of our state’s natural resources.

Invasive or Non-native Species

A species that is 1) non-native (alien or exotic) to the ecosystem under consideration and 2) whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Invertebrates

Of or relating to creatures without a backbone.

L

Landsat 7 Enhanced Thermal Mapper Plus (ETM+)

A fixed “whisk-broom”, eight-band, multispectral scanning radiometer capable of providing high-resolution imaging information of the Earth’s surface. It detects spectrally-filtered radiation in VNIR, SWIR, LWIR and panchromatic bands from the sun-lit Earth in a 183 km wide swath when orbiting at an altitude of 705 km.

Landscape-level Conservation

Conservation of areas large enough to contain functioning ecosystems in which crucial natural processes take place. Processes like fire, flooding, and wildlife migration are essential to the health, biological diversity, and long-term sustainability of an ecosystem.

Land Trusts

A trust created to effectuate a real estate ownership arrangement in which the trustee holds legal title to the property that is significant for wildlife or habitat conservation.

M

Migration Routes

The geographic route along which birds, fish or other species customarily migrate.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)

A federal law first enacted in 1916 in order to implement the convention for the protection of migratory birds

Monitoring

To keep track of systematically through collection of information.

N

National Wild Turkey Foundation (NWTf)

The National Wild Turkey Federation is an international non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of the wild turkey and the preservation of our hunting heritage.

National Wildlife Refuge (NWR)

The Refuge System provides and protects it all on 150 million acres of land and water from the Caribbean to the Pacific, Maine to Alaska, plus more than 418 million acres of national marine monuments.

Natural Lake (Glacial Lake)

A glacial lake is a lake with origins in a melted glacier. They are formed when a glacier erodes the land, and then melts, filling the hole or space that it has created.

NICHES Land Trust (NICHES)

NICHES protects, restores and sustains Northern Indiana's ecosystems by providing habitat for native species and offering natural places for the education, appreciation and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Non-point Source Pollution

Pollution that comes from many diffuse sources, caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and even underground sources of drinking water.

North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP)

NAAMP is a collaborative effort among regional partners, such as state natural resource agencies and nonprofit organizations, and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to monitor populations of vocal amphibians. The USGS provides central coordination and database management

O

Operational Documents

Plans that specify particular actions, generally including the timing, cost, and responsible party for the action.

P

Pheasants Forever (PF)

Pheasants Forever is a grassroots, volunteer, membership-based organization. Members are a diverse group of hunters, farmers, ranchers, landowners, conservation enthusiasts, and wildlife officials. The common thread is all want to make a difference for wildlife by conserving or creating habitat.

Planning Regions

The Core and Advisory Teams split Indiana into six planning regions for the purpose of the 2015 SWAP. These planning regions include: Great Lakes Region, Kankakee Region, Corn Belt Region, Valleys and Hills Region, Interior Plateau Region, and Drift Plains Region.

Point Source Pollution

Pollution that generally comes from wastewater discharged from the pipes into rivers, streams, lakes, and the ocean. Examples include industrial facilities and municipal sewage treatment plants.

Q

Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index (QHEI)

The qualitative habitat evaluation index (QHEI) gives scientists a quantitative assessment of physical characteristics of a sampled stream similar to IBI and ICI biological data. QHEI represents a measure of in-stream geography. By combining evaluations of QHEI and IBI, for example, researchers can gain a well-rounded perspective of both the physical and biological conditions of a particular stream site.

Quartiles

A type of quantile. The first quartile is defined as the middle number between the smallest number and the median of the dataset. The second quartile is the median of the data. The third quartile is the middle value between the median and the highest value of the data set.

R

Range

The geographic region in which a plant or animal normally lives or grows.

Raster Data Set

The raster data model uses a grid to cover the space and the value of each cell (pixel) in the grid to correspond to the characteristic of the geographic feature at the cell location. The cell is the smallest unit in the grid. A grid is a matrix of cells.

Regimes

Trends in the characteristics of a system, such as the typical changes in seasonal water flow or level.

Reintroduction

Restoring a wildlife species to a habitat type or area where the species was known to have existing in the past, but from which it had disappeared.

Relative Abundance

The number of individuals of a particular species as a percentage of the total number of individuals in a given area or community.

Representative Species

A wildlife species selected from a guild to “paint a reasonable mental picture of the associated habitat type” when presented to a diverse user group including biologists, the public, legislators, grant reviewers and other partners. The selected species would automatically generate an association with the habitat-related guild and a desire to protect, enhance or somehow improve that habitat as the strategy is implemented. Representative species also were used as mental tools to focus technical expert input on particular relationships between species and their habitats, as they considered research and conservation needs for these associations.

Restoration

Conservation actions taken to return a degraded habitat to a normal or healthy condition.

S

Savannas

Upland communities of scattered trees, typically oaks, above a ground layer of prairie grasses and forbs. Fire and periodic grazing naturally maintained most of the savannas of the Midwest. Black-oak savannah is the most endangered habitat type in Indiana.

Special Concern (State Classification)

Any animal species about which some problems of limited abundance or distribution in Indiana are known or suspected and should be closely monitored.

Species

A classification of related organisms that can freely interbreed.

Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

State and Federally listed species including the following listings; state endangered, state special concern, federally endangered, federal candidate, and federally threatened.

Sprawl

Haphazard growth or extension outward, especially that resulting from real estate development on the outskirts of a city.

Staging Sites

Particular geographic areas used by migrating species to stop as a group for resting along a migration route. Specific staging sites may be consistently used year after year by the same species. For example, Jasper-Pulaski State Park is a staging site for the migration of sandhill cranes.

Stakeholders

One who has a share or an interest in the outcome of a planning or strategic process.

State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

A habitat model that maximizes limited knowledge about wildlife species by focusing on habitats and species that are better known. All species are linked to habitats on which they depend by using representative species as surrogates.

State Wildlife Grants (SWG)

A grant that provides funding to every state and territory to support cost effective conservation aimed at keeping wildlife from becoming endangered.

Stocking

To hatch, grow, or transfer a group of individuals for release into a habitat for the purposes of establishing or augmenting a wildlife population.

Subterranean Systems

Surface openings of underground features and connected rooms and passages beyond natural light penetration, such as caves and “disappearing” rivers.

Successional Change

The gradual and orderly process of ecosystem development brought about by changes in community composition and the production of a climax characteristic of a particular geographic region.

Synergy

Interaction among qualities in the environment that produce an enhanced combined effect, such as a combination of reproductive and habitat factors affecting species survival and distribution.

Systematic

Carried on using step-by-step procedures.

T

Taxa

A taxonomic category or group, such as a phylum, order, family, genus, or species.

Taxonomic Groups

Animal or plant groupings that show evolutionary relationships between organisms.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The DFW has established five TACs, one for each major taxon: Mammals, Birds, Amphibians & Reptiles, Fish, and Mollusk and Crustacean. Each committee is comprised of the chair and one to nine additional members, primarily from Indiana colleges and universities, with experience in Indiana relative to the taxon covered by that committee.

Technical Expert

A person with specific knowledge or expertise regarding species or habitats found within the state of Indiana.

Terrestrial

Of or relating to or inhabiting the land as opposed to the sea or air.

Territory

A defined area (including land and waters) in possession of and defended by an animal.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

A natural resources organization that works to preserve the plants, animals, and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Threatened Species (Federal Classification)

Any species that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Threatened Species (State Classification)

There is no legal classification for state-listed threatened species.

Toxin

A poisonous substance introduced through pollution.

U

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

Provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

An agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that administers the nation's 154 national forests and 20 national grasslands, which encompass 193 million acres.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

The USGS is a science organization that provides impartial information on the health of our ecosystems and environment, the natural hazards that threaten us, the natural resources we rely on, the impacts of climate and land-use change, and the core science systems that help us provide timely, relevant, and useable information.

U.S. National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS provides farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground, not only helping the environment but agricultural operations, too.

W

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

A voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

Wetlands

Areas shallowly flooded temporarily or permanently to cover the base of plants but not prolonged inundation of the entire plant; areas temporarily flooded often supporting aquatic plants and animals; areas temporarily or permanently flooded with woody vegetation taller than six meters; areas of usually shallow wetlands dominated by non-woody plants such as cattail, reeds or rushes; areas with moist non-vegetated soil, often produced in shallow wetlands by advance and retreat of water levels; areas permanently flooded and often supporting aquatic plants and animals; and areas flooded temporarily or permanently with woody vegetation shorter than six meters.

White-nose Syndrome (WNS)

White-nose syndrome (WNS) is an infectious disease associated with a fungus responsible for unprecedented levels of mortality among hibernating bats in North America.