

# Chapter 8

## Glossary

**adapt.** To make fit (as for a specific or new use or situation), often by modification.

**adaptive management.** A flexible, iterative approach to long-term management of biological resources that is directed over time by the results of ongoing monitoring activity and other information.

**alluvial.** A deposit of clay, silt, sand, gravel, or similar detrital material deposited by running water.

**alpine.** Of, relating to, or growing in the biogeographic zone including the elevated slopes above timberline.

**amend.** To change or modify for the better.

**anthropogenic.** Of, relating to, or influenced by the impact of humans on nature.

**aquifer.** Water-bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel.

**archaeology.** The scientific study of material remains of past human life and activities.

**aridisol.** Hardpan soils formed under exceedingly arid environmental conditions.

**arroyo.** A watercourse in an arid region.

**arthropod.** Any of a phylum of invertebrate animals including insects, arachnids, and crustaceans.

**bajada.** Wide, downsloping, alluvial plain.

**barren.** Unproductive land; lacking a normal or adequate cover of vegetation or crops. Desolate.

**benthic.** Of, relating to, or occurring at the bottom of a body of water.

**biennium.** A period of two years.

**biodiversity.** The variety of life forms and processes, including a complexity of species, communities, gene pools, and ecological functions.

**biodiversity hotspot.** An area of unusually complex biodiversity.

**biology.** The plant and animal life of a region or environment.

**biome.** A major ecological community.

**boreal.** Of, relating to, or growing in northern and mountainous parts of the northern hemisphere.

**boreal island.** Montane or high elevation areas isolated from other montane or high elevation areas by desert.

**conifer.** Any of an order of mostly evergreen trees and shrubs including forms (such as pines) with true cones and others (such as yews) with arillate fruit.

**conservation.** Planned management of a natural resource to prevent exploitation, destruction, or neglect.

**crustaceans.** Any of a large class of mostly aquatic arthropods that have a chitinous or calcareous and chitinous exoskeleton, a pair of often much modified appendages on each segment, and two pairs of antennae and that include lobsters, shrimps, crabs, wood lice, water fleas, and barnacles.

**cryptogam.** A plant (as a fern, moss, alga, or fungus) reproducing by spores and not producing flowers or seed.

**data base.** A collection of data organized for rapid search and retrieval.

**delineation.** The act of representing, portraying, or describing graphically or verbally.

**detritus.** Loose material (rock, organic material) that results directly from degeneration or erosion.

**development.** A developed tract of land, especially one that has houses built thereon.

**diurnal.** Primarily active during daylight hours.

**dune.** A hill or ridge of sand piled up by the actions of the wind.

**ecology.** The totality or pattern or relations between organisms and their environment.

**ecosystem.** The complex of a community and its environment functioning as an ecological unit in nature.

**endangered species.** An animal or plant whose prospects for survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, and as further defined by the Endangered Species act of 1973.

**endemic.** Restricted or particular to a locality or region.

**enhance.** To make greater, as in value, desirability, or attractiveness.

**entisol.** In U.S. Department of Agriculture soil taxonomy, a soil order characterized by dominance of mineral soil materials and absence of distinct horizons.

**exotic species.** A species of plant or animal that is not native to the ecosystem in which it is living.

**extirpate.** To destroy completely; to wipe out.

**extramural.** Existing or functioning outside of an organized unit.

**feral.** Animals having escaped from domestication and become wild.

**forb.** Any herbaceous nonwoody plant that is not grass or grasslike.

**geographic information system (GIS).** A type of software for digital mapping and data analysis on computers.

**habitat.** The place or type of site where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows.

**Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).** A plan submitted in support of an application for an incidental take permit under Section 10(a) of the ESA including measures that the applicant will implement to minimize, monitor, and mitigate the effects of the proposed incidental take.

**herbivorous.** Feeding solely on vegetable material.

**Herd Management Area Plan (HMAP).** A written and officially approved plan for a specific geographical area of public land that identifies wild horse (or burro) herd use areas and habitat, identifies population and habitat objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives, and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

**hibernaculum.** A shelter that is occupied during the winter by a dormant animal and that usually has a characteristic structure.

**hydrology.** The study of the properties, distribution, and circulation of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

**implement.** To carry out; accomplish.

**impose.** To establish or apply as compulsory.

**impoundment.** A body of water which has artificially been collected and confined.

**incremental.** A series of regular, consecutive additions.

**infrastructure.** The underlying foundation or basic framework of a system or organization.

**integrate.** To form or blend into a whole; to unite.

**interglacial.** Occurring or formed between glacial epochs.

**interlocal.** Existing between localities.

**inventory.** An itemized list of current assets.

**invertebrate.** Lacking a spinal column.

**key populations or habitat areas.** Those that are unique or of limited distribution or, more broadly, those of long-term conservation significance.

**logistics.** The handling of the details of an operation.

**methodology.** A particular procedure or set of procedures.

**midden.** An accumulation of refuse about a dwelling place; a refuse heap.

**mitigate.** To cause to become less harsh or hostile; to make less severe or painful.

**mollisol.** An order of soils that characteristically forms under grass in climates that have a moderate to severe seasonal moisture deficit. They are dark-colored soils with a relatively high cation-exchange capacity dominated by calcium. Many are very productive agricultural soils.

**monitor.** To watch, observe, or check. Especially for a special purpose.

**montane.** Of, relating to, or growing in or being the biogeographic zone that is made up of relatively moist, cool upland slopes below timber line and that is characterized by large evergreen trees as a dominant life form.

**nocturnal.** Primarily active during the nighttime.

**objective.** Something toward which effort is directed.

**omnivorous.** Feeding on both animal and vegetable substances.

**organochlorine.** Related to or belonging to the chlorinated hydrocarbon pesticides.

**pedogenic.** Of, relating to, or involved in soil formation.

**perennial.** Present at all seasons of the year.

**perpetual.** Eternal.

**playa.** The flat-floored bottom of an undrained desert basin that becomes at times a shallow lake.

**polygon.** A closed-plane figure bounded by straight lines.

**prelisting agreement.** To identify those species which are likely to be listed in the near future and which, if listed, are likely to have a significant economic or social impact upon the residents of Clark County; to identify conservation measures which are likely to substantially reduce the likelihood of such listing and to result in the conservation and recovery thereof; to commit to the implementation of such conservation measures; and to secure incidental take permits should such species be listed in the future which would become effective upon the listing of such species in the future.

**prescriptive.** Acquired by, founded on, or determined by prescription or by long-standing custom.

**proactive.** Involving modification by a factor which precedes that which is modified.

**prohibition.** The act of prohibiting by authority.

**quantify.** To determine, express, or measure the quantity of.

**raptor.** A bird of prey.

**refugium.** An area of relatively unaltered climate that is inhabited by plants and animals during a period of continental climatic change (as a glaciation) and remains as a center of relic forms from which a new dispersion and speciation may take place after climatic readjustment.

**rehabilitate.** To restore to former capacity.

**relict.** A persistent remnant of an otherwise extinct flora or fauna or kind of organism.

**research.** To search or investigate exhaustively.

**restore.** To put or bring back into existence or use.

**riffles.** Wave pattern in sand or gravel caused by water movement.

**riparian.** Related to, living in, or located on the bank of a natural watercourse.

**riparian area.** Area influenced by surface or subsurface water flows that are expressed (visually) by facultative wetland or obligate wetland plant species and hydric soils.

**R.S. 2477.** County Revised Statute 2477 road classification system.

**saline.** Consisting of or containing salt.

**sedges.** Any of a family of usually tufted marsh plants differing from the related grasses in having achenes and solid stems.

**snag.** An upright dead tree, often hollow, which provides habitat and roosting space for a variety of animals.

**species.** A class of individuals having common attributes and designated by a common name.

**spelunking.** The hobby or practice of exploring caves.

**statutory.** Enacted, created, or regulated by statute.

**stochastic.** Random; involving a random variable.

**stressor.** A stimulus that causes stress.

**subspecies.** The taxonomic category that ranks immediately below a species.

**take.** The number or quantity (as of mammals, birds, reptiles, or fishes) taken at one time. To harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

**taxon.** A taxonomic group or entity.

**taxonomy.** The study of the general principles of scientific classification. The orderly classification of plants and animals according to their presumed natural relationships.

**thermal.** Of, relating to, or marked by the presence of hot springs.

**threatened species.** Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

**topography.** The configuration of a surface including its relief and the position of its natural and man-made features.

**tundra.** A level or undulating treeless plain that is characteristic of arctic and subarctic regions, supporting a dense growth of often conspicuously flowering dwarf herbs.

**vascular.** Of or relating to a channel for the conveyance of a body fluid (as blood of an animal or sap of a plant) or to a system of such channels.

**vertebrate.** A subphylum of chordates comprising animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fishes) with a segmented spinal column.

**viability.** Capable of existence and development as an independent unit.

**wetland.** Land or areas containing much soil moisture.

**xeric.** Characterized by, relating to, or requiring only a small amount of moisture.