



Glossary

abdomen: the posterior part of the body of an arthropod

abiotic: a nonliving factor in an environment (e.g., light, water, temperature)

accumulate: the buildup of a material overtime

acidity: the state of having a pH lower than 7; if acidic levels are too high organisms have difficulty surviving

adapt: to adjust or modify to make suitable for present conditions; typically refers to a species adapting in behavior, physiology, or anatomy permanently over many generations through natural selection, although an individual may also adapt its behavior temporarily in its lifetime

adaptation (biological): an alteration or adjustment in structure or habits by which a species or individual improves its condition in relationship to its environment; a physical, behavioral, or physiological trait that helps a population or species to thrive; the process or the product of natural selection over many generations that changes an organism's behavior, physiological function, or anatomical structure, so that it is better suited to its environment

adaptation (climate change): adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities

advertising: the act of offering goods and services to the general public through media

aestivation: dormancy, similar to hibernation, and typically during hot and dry periods (also spelled estivation)

alike: describes things that are similar

alkalinity: the state of having a pH higher than 7; organisms have difficulty surviving in highly alkaline environments

amphibian: an animal that typically lives in an aquatic habitat breathing by gills as young, and primarily in a terrestrial habitat breathing by lungs and through moist glandular skin as adult (e.g., frog)

anadromous: species of fish that live their lives in the ocean and migrate to fresh water to spawn

animal: a living organism other than a plant (or protist, fungi, algae, etc., as classified by some scientists).

animal community: animals of various species living within a certain habitat, each occupying a specific position in this particular environment; directly parallel and related to plant communities

annual: a plant that completes its life cycle from seedling to mature seed-bearing plant during a single growing season

antennae: the long pair of sensory appendages on the heads of some arthropods

anthropocentric: valuing the environment and its resources for human needs and interests

anthropogenic: a phenomena event caused by humans

anthropomorphism: the attribution of human characteristics to nonhumans, especially animals

aquatic: growing, living in, or frequenting water

arboreal: inhabiting trees

appreciate: recognize the full worth of something; understand (a situation) fully; recognize the full implications

arrangement: the location, in relation to one another, of sources of food, water, and shelter in an animal's habitat

art: something created to express an image, idea, or feeling; can take multiple forms such as drawing, singing, dancing, painting, and many more

arthropod: organisms with a hard, jointed exoskeleton and paired, jointed legs

artist: a person who creates art

attitude: one's opinion or state of mind

autotroph: an organism that can produce its own food

bag limit: the maximum number of animals allowed to be taken by an individual in regulated fishing or hunting

barometer: an instrument for measuring atmospheric pressure and change in pressure. Something used to predict or indicate change

basic needs: fundamental requirements that serve as the foundation for survival (i.e. food, water, shelter, space)

basking: to lie in the sun or light; ectotherms bask in order to raise their body temperatures

behavior: the actions and reactions of humans or animals in response to stimuli

belief: an information-based assumption; it may be correct or incorrect

biennial: a plant that lives for two growing seasons, producing leaves during the first season, flowers and seeds during the second

big game: a term for large species of wild animals, birds, or fish hunted for food or sport (e.g. deer, elk, moose, bear)

bill: a draft of a proposed legislation

bioaccumulation: the storage of chemicals in an organism in higher concentrations than are normally found in the environment

biocentric: a person whose attitude toward the environment considers all of the plants and animals



biodegradable: capable of being decomposed by biological agents, especially bacteria

biodiversity: a term used to represent the variety of life forms in a given area

biogeochemistry: the scientific discipline that involves the study of all the processes and reactions (chemical, physical, geological, and biological) that govern the composition of the natural environment

biological control: the control of a pest by the introduction of a natural enemy or predator

biologist: a person who studies living organisms and their relationship to one another

biomagnification: the accumulation of chemicals in organisms in increasingly higher concentration at successive trophic levels

biome: a large geographic area with somewhat uniform climatic conditions; a complex of communities characterized by a distinctive type of vegetation and maintained under the climatic conditions of the region

biosphere: the layer of planet Earth where living organisms exist

biota: the animal and plant life of a region

biotic: the living organisms in a given community, including all plant and animal life within the community

blind: a hiding place for observing wildlife

breeding: a series of complex behavioral interactive patterns from courtship to rearing of young that are necessary for the continuation of a species

broadleaf: the term describing a plant with wide, broad leaves rather than needlelike leaves

brood: the offspring of a bird or mammal

browse: to feed on the twigs, leaves, and shoots of woody plants and other vegetation

burrowing: to dig a hole or tunnel for habitation or refuge

camouflage: the ability to blend in with surroundings

canopy: layer formed by the leaves and branches of the forest's tallest trees

carbon dioxide: a gas that is essential to life on Earth, but that can have negative impacts when released into the atmosphere in excess quantities; plants, trees, and some bacteria convert carbon dioxide (CO₂) into oxygen through photosynthesis

carnivore: a meat eater

carion: the bodies of dead animals, usually found in nature in the process of decay

carrying capacity: the maximum number of individuals or inhabitants that a given environment can support without detrimental effects

cast: to regurgitate indigestible prey remains

chemicals: naturally occurring or synthetic material used to compose other things

chrysalis: the pupa stage of a butterfly; the hard skin around the body of a butterfly when it is in the pupa state of development

circadian rhythm: the natural 24-hour physiological cycles of plants and animals that are affected by periods of light and dark

citizen science: the involvement of the general public in scientific research

classification: the assignment of organisms to groups within a system of categories

clay: a soil type with the smallest particles; clay is very compact, can be hard to dig, allows for limited water and nutrients to reach plants for absorption, can also trap water which damages roots

climate: weather conditions in a particular area over an extended period of time; the average condition of the weather

climate change: a long-term change in Earth's climate; current climatic warming is occurring much more rapidly than past warming events

climax: the final stage of plant or animal succession; when environmental conditions have been stable long enough for an area to develop a semi-permanent biome

climax community: a stage in ecological development in which a community of organisms, especially plants, is stable and capable of perpetuating itself

clutter: excessive grouping of artificial lights, frequently occurring in urban areas

coal: fossilized carbon that is used for energy

cocoon: a silk web that encloses the pupae of many moths and other insects, but not butterflies

color, coloration: a genetically controlled pattern or marking that protects an individual organism

commensalism: a relationship between two living organisms where one benefits and the other is neither harmed nor helped

community: a group of plants and animals living and interacting with one another in a specific region under relatively similar environmental conditions.

compass: a navigational tool used for determining direction

compass rose: a circle with degrees or cardinal directions printed on a map for orientation

competition: the simultaneous demand by two or more organisms for limited environmental resources, such as nutrients, living space, or light

composting: collecting discarded organic matter to create a richer soil as it decomposes

conifer: a plant that bears its seeds in cones; mostly needle-leaved or scale-leaved; mainly evergreen

coniferous: refers to cone-bearing (A coniferous forest is one composed of pines, firs, spruces, or a combination of these.)

consensus: when a group of people reach a general agreement

consequences: a result or effect of an action or condition



conservation: the use of natural resources in a way that ensures their continuing availability to future generations; the wise and intelligent use or protection of natural resources

conservation easement: a voluntary legal agreement that limits uses of land to protect its conservation values. For example, a conservation easement may stipulate that the land owner continues to own the property and may still use it for agriculture, but that the land may not be developed (built upon) or changed to a higher density zoning

consumer: an organism in an ecosystem that feeds on plants or other animals

consumptive use: in general terms related to wildlife, any activity resulting in the harvesting of wildlife

cooperation: the process of working together to accomplish something, usually that is mutually beneficial

courtship: a behavior pattern that ensures mating with a suitable partner of the correct species at the correct time

cover: the vegetation, debris, and irregularities of the land that provide concealment, sleeping, feeding, and breeding areas for wildlife

covey: a small flock or group, often a family group, of birds such as quail

crepuscular: active at dawn and dusk

critically endangered: a species that will not survive without direct human intervention

culling: the targeted removal of animals from a particular population, typically by professionals with advanced wildlife identification and shooting skills; often utilized in areas where hunting is not feasible or permitted

cultural carrying capacity: the largest number of a wildlife species that humans will tolerate in their community

dabbling ducks: ducks that frequent shallow marshes, ponds, and rivers and “tip up” to feed; dabbling ducks feed with body above water and take off vertically when startled; also called “puddle ducks” (see “diving ducks”)

deciduous: trees that shed or lose foliage at the end of the growing season

decomposer: those organisms (e.g. bacteria, fungi) that convert dead organic materials into inorganic materials

deed: a legal document often used for property rights

defense: a means of protecting something from attack

dependent variable: variable that experience a change during an experiment

development: the purpose of converting land to a new purpose by constructing buildings or making use of its resources

different: describes things that are not the same as each other in some way

digitigrade: term used to describe animals that walk or run on their toes; examples are cats and coyotes

dilemma: a difficult situation or problem

disease: an ailment or sickness that causes the body to not function properly

dispersal: the scattering of an object or objects

display: an observable behavioral pattern that is used to communicate visually, such as the presentation of colors or plumage by male birds as part of courtship or intimidation

distribution: the way that something is divided or shared out; the natural geographic range or place where any category of items occurs

diurnal: active by daylight; the opposite of nocturnal

diversity: variety

diving ducks: ducks that prefer deep water as in lakes and bays; ducks that feed primarily by diving below the surface

domesticated: term used to describe an animal or plant that has been trained or adapted to live in a human environment and to be of use to human beings

dominant species: plant or animal species that exert a major controlling influence on the community

echolocate: to locate objects using sound waves; animals that echolocate typically emit high-frequency sounds and interpret the echoes to determine the location and orientation of objects

ecological niche: a specific role played by an organism in a biological community; can be defined by food preferences, requirements for shelter, special behaviors, or the timing of its activities (e.g., nocturnal or diurnal)

ecologist: a scientist who studies the interrelations of living things to one another and to their environment

ecology: the study of the relation of organisms or groups of organisms to their environment; the science of the interrelations between living organisms and their environment

ecosystem: a natural unit that includes living and nonliving parts interacting to produce a stable system in which the exchange of materials between the living and nonliving parts follows closed paths; a set of elements, living and nonliving, interacting over time to produce a stable system within a defined locale

ecosystem service: any benefit provided to humans by ecosystems

ectotherm: term used to describe an animal that cannot maintain a stable body temperature and therefore depends on environmental factors to keep its body temperature within an acceptable range; commonly referred to as “cold-blooded”

edge community: the area that borders two habitats; a transition zone

edge effect: the tendency of wildlife to use the areas where two vegetative types come together forming an edge

elevation: height above sea level

eminent domain: the power of government agencies to acquire property for public use so long as the government pays the property owner just compensation



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

endotherm: an animal that is able to maintain a stable body temperature due to metabolic processes despite environmental temperatures

energy: the capacity to do work; source of usable power

environment: the circumstances and conditions surrounding an organism that influences its existence, including physical, biological, and all other factors

environmental issue: a situation in which there is disagreement about solutions to an environmental problem, often because of differing values and beliefs

environmental problem: a difficult situation involving the interaction between people and the environment

environmental quality: the state of the environment and its wellbeing; can be impacted by pollution, population, and development

erosion: to wear away or corrode

estivation: (see aestivation)

ethics: a personal or social moral code

eutrophication: enrichment of soils and water resulting from fertilization, sewage, effluent, or other waters that carry a high plant-nutrient component

evaporation: the process of a substance changing from a liquid to a gas by exposure to air, heat, or both

evergreen: a plant having foliage that remains green throughout the year

evidence: information or observations that help determine what is true

exoskeleton: a hard skeleton located on the outside of an invertebrate's body

exotic: a plant or animal that is not native to a region or habitat (e.g., the ring-necked pheasant, native to Asia, is considered an exotic species in North America)

exponential growth: growth that becomes increasingly more rapid

extinct: a term used to describe the condition when all members of a species have been removed from existence

extirpated: missing from native range but not extinct

fear: an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that something is dangerous, able to cause pain, or threatening

fecal pellets: animal droppings that can be used in tracking

feelings: an emotional state or reaction; a belief

feral: referring to domesticated animals that are now wild

finite: having bounds or limits; capable of being counted or measured

flower: the reproductive part of a plant that produces the seed

flyway: fly routes established by migratory birds

food: material, usually of plant or animal matter, that living organisms use to obtain nutrients

food chain: the transfer of food energy from one organism to another as each consumes a lower member and in turn is preyed upon by a higher member

food web: an interlocking pattern of food chains

forage: refers to vegetation taken naturally by herbivorous animals

forb: a broad-leaved flowering plant such as sunflower and prairie clover; does not include grasses, sedges, trees, shrubs

forest floor: the layer of decomposing material that covers the soil in a forest

forest management: the practical application of scientific, economic, and social principles to the administration of a forest for specified objectives

fragmentation (habitat fragmentation): the creation of isolated habitats by partially destroying a larger and more continuous habitat

fragrance: the scent of a flower that helps determine which pollinators it attracts

fruit: part of the flowering plant that is produced by the ovary and surrounds the seed

fry: small, young fish that have recently hatched

funding: a source for money; to furnish a fund for

fuel load: the total amount of combustible material in a defined space that is quantified in heat units or in its equivalent weight in wood

fungi: organisms that reproduce through spores and gain nutrients through decomposition and moisture absorption

gait: an animal's characteristic walking pattern, determined by the animal's shape

game animal: legal designation for animals that may be managed and hunted under regulation

gene pool: the availability of genes within a species or population

generator: a machine for converting mechanical energy into electricity

genetic diversity: the chromosomal diversity available within a species or population

genotype: the entire set of genes an organism has

geocaching: a popular form of recreation where people or organizations hide items and list the coordinates of the hidden cache as a challenge for others to find

glare: the presence of excessive bright light that causes discomfort, ranging from mild to disabling

Global Positioning System (GPS): capabilities that provide longitude and latitude coordinates

global warming: a rise in annual average temperature of the Earth's climate



greenhouse effect: a natural occurrence in which heat from the sun is trapped in the atmosphere by clouds and certain gases such as carbon dioxide

greenhouse gases: a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect such as carbon dioxide and methane; an increase in greenhouse gases results in more heat being trapped in the atmosphere

habitat: the arrangement of food, water, shelter or cover, and space suitable to animals' needs

harvest: the intentional gathering of plants, animals, and other natural resources for use

hatchery: a place where fish eggs are hatched and raised

herb: any flowering plant or fern that has a soft, rather than woody, stem

herb layer: the layer of soft-stemmed plants growing close to the forest floor

herbicide: pesticides that control unwanted plants

herbivore: a plant eater

herd: a group of animals

heritable: describes a trait that is inherited genetically

heterotroph: an organism that cannot use its own system to produce food; in order to survive the organism must consume other living things

hibernacula: places where an animal hibernates or overwinters (hibernaculum, singular)

hibernation: the act of passing the winter, or a portion of it, in a state of sleep; a torpid or resting state

host: an organism that houses another organism through a symbiotic relationship

host plant: a specific plant upon which an animal relies for egg-laying, nesting, feeding, or raising its young

humus: organic material resulting from decaying plant and animal matter

hunter: a person or animal who is in search of wildlife for harvest or consumption

hunting: searching for and stalking an animal with the goal of harvesting it for consumption

hydropower: energy that is harvested from the movement of water

hypothesis: an educated prediction; part of a scientific experiment

imaginary: existing only in the mind or imagination; unreal

imagine: to form a mental image or concept

impact: an effect or influence

independent variable: variable that is manipulated in an experiment

indicator species: an organism whose presence, absence, or abundance reflects a specific environmental condition

indigenous: a naturally occurring species

inflow: how much water is entering a source of water

information: facts provided or learned about someone or something

inorganic: term used to describe substances not derived from living things

insect: an arthropod with a head, thorax, abdomen, three pairs of jointed legs, a pair of antennae, and compound eyes

insecticide: a chemical used to kill insects

insectivore: an organism that eats primarily or exclusively insects

insectivorous: refers to insect eaters

inspiration: motivation behind an action

interaction: the relationship of one organism to another; the action of one population affecting the growth or death rate of another population

interdependence: when different species within an ecosystem rely upon one another for survival

interview: to question someone to discover their opinions or experiences

introduced species: a non-native species that is intentionally or accidentally brought into an ecosystem

invade: to enter or permeate an area; to overrun

invasive species: a species that has become a pest to the environment

inventory: a detailed, itemized list used in the process of identifying and counting animals

invertebrate: animal that does not have a backbone

investigation: an examination or search in order to discover facts or gain information

journal: records that reflect a person's observations or thoughts

keystone species: a species that plays a crucial role in an ecosystem, where many organisms are impacted by its presence

land use: the purpose for which land is used by people

land-use planning: planning for land development

larva: an immature form of the adult animal that is active; a stage of metamorphosis

latitude: geographic measurement that describes the distance north or south of the equator

law: a written rule or collection of rules prescribed under the authority of a state or nation

legend: a table or list on a map that explains the symbols used

legislation: a law, or set of laws, made by a government

legislator: a person who makes laws; a member of the legislative body

license: in wildlife terms, a legal permit for hunting, fishing, trapping, and so forth

lichen: algae and fungus growing together in a symbiotic relationship



life cycle: the continuous sequence of changes undergone by an organism including birth, growth, reproduction, and death

light pollution: excessive, misdirected, or obtrusive artificial light

light trespass: occurs when light spills into areas where it is not needed, wanted, or intended such as into a neighbor's windows

limiting factors: influences in the life history of any animal, population of animals, or species that affect the number or range of the animal(s) (e.g., disease, predation, food, water, shelter, space, climatic conditions, pollution, hunting, poaching)

linear: term used to describe change at a constant rate

litter: carelessly discarded garbage; the number of young born per birthing to a mammal

loam: a soil mixture of clay and sand that allows for nutrients and water to reach plants while still maintaining structural security

locomotion: the act or power of moving from place to place

longitude: geographic measurement that describes the distance east or west of the prime meridian

macroinvertebrate: invertebrate animals (animals without a backbone) large enough to be observed without the aid of a microscope or other magnification

management: in general terms related to wildlife, the intentional manipulation or nonmanipulation of habitat or the organisms within the habitat

market hunting: hunting on a commercial level for the sale of hides, pelts, or meat

media: the means of communication through which information is spread to a large number of people

metamorphosis: a fundamental developmental change in the form or structure of an animal (as in a butterfly or a frog) occurring after birth or hatching

microhabitat: a small habitat within a larger one in which environmental conditions differ from those in the surrounding area

microorganism: an organism microscopic in size, observable only through a microscope

migration: seasonal movement from one region or country to another

migratory: birds or other animals that make annual moves from one region or country to another to settle

mimic: sharing common colors with another species to increase chances of survival

mitigate: to make up for; to substitute some benefit for losses incurred

mixed forest: a forest that includes both coniferous and deciduous trees

monoculture: the raising of a crop of a single species, generally even-aged (Parts of the Midwest are a monoculture of corn or soybeans.)

mortality rate: the death rate; usually expressed in deaths per thousand

multiple use: a term referring to a system of management in which lands and waters are used for a variety of purposes

mutualism: a close association between two different species whereby each species derives some benefit

native species: a plant or animal species that was produced, grew, or originated in a certain region

natural gas: a naturally occurring underground gas, consisting mostly of methane, that can be harvested for fuel, electricity generation, and manufacturing

natural resources: anything that comes directly or indirectly from the earth

natural selection: a process in nature resulting in the survival and perpetuation of only those forms of plants and animals having certain favorable characteristics that enable them to adapt best to a specific environment

naturalist: a person who observes and studies plants and animals in nature

nectar: a sugary liquid produced by a plant to attract pollinators

niche: the function or position of an organism or a population within an ecological community

nitrogen fixation: the conversion of atmospheric nitrogen into organic compounds or to forms readily utilizable in biological processes

nocturnal: active by night; the opposite of diurnal

non-game animal: all wildlife species that are not commonly hunted, killed, or consumed by humans, such as songbirds and raptors

non-native species: in conservation terms, an organism that has been introduced into a new area

non-renewable resource: nonliving resources such as rocks and minerals that do not regenerate themselves and cannot be replaced in this geological age

nonconsumptive: using wildlife through watch, study, or record without the killing or extracting of an organism

nuclear power: power harvested from nuclear fission to create energy

nutrient: a substance that provides nutritional value

nutrient cycle: the breakdown and uptake of nutrients and their release back into the soil

observation: the act of viewing or noting a fact or occurrence for a scientific purpose

oil spill: a type of pollution in which oil is accidentally released into the environment, often marine areas

omnivore: an animal that eats both plant and animal materials

opinion: a view or judgment about something, not necessarily based on fact or knowledge



ordinance: a governing law, rule, or legislation

organic: term used to describe materials derived from living things

organism: a living thing; a form of life composed of parts that work together to carry on the various processes of life

owl pellets: the compacted bones and fur that cannot not be digested and are regurgitated by an owl

parasite: an organism that lives by deriving benefit from another organism, usually doing harm to the organism from which it derives benefit

parasitism: a relationship between two species in which one species (the parasite) nourishes itself to the detriment of the other species (the host)

pathway: the geographical path a species followed to a location

perennial: a plant that lives for several years and usually produces seeds each year

permafrost: a layer of soil that stays frozen throughout the year, found in the tundra biome

pesticide: a substance used to kill plants or animals considered to be pests

petroleum: liquid material that is extracted from rocks and refined to produce gasoline

phenology: the timing of nature's cycles, such as the blooming of a flower, the migration of a butterfly species or the changing color of leaves in the fall

phenotype: an organism's observable characteristics

phenophase: observable stages or phases in the annual life cycle of a plant or animal

pheromone: chemical scents shared by animals as a form of communication

photon: a discrete particle of energy

photosynthesis: the process of plants converting water and carbon dioxide in the presence of light energy from the sun into food for the plant

pioneer species: species that are the first to inhabit a destroyed site; often hardy due to the need to adapt; their presence causes changes to the site that in turn will make it habitable for other species

plankton: microscopic organisms that are suspended in an aquatic habitat and that serve as food for fish and other large organisms

plant communities: an association of plants, each occupying a certain position or ecological niche, inhabiting a common environment and interacting with each other

plantigrade: term used to describe animals that walk on the soles of the feet; examples are bears, raccoons

playa: shallow, circular depressions in the land that collect water to form wetlands, ranging in size from less than an acre to several hundred acres; commonly found on the high plains of the southwestern United States

plot: an area of land

poaching: hunting illegally, not complying with regulations regarding areas, sex, seasons, or limits

poetry: a form of literary expression that evokes impressions by the sound and imagery of its language

pollen: the small male reproductive grains found on the anther of a flower

pollination: transfer of pollen from the anther to the stigma of a flower

pollinator: living organisms that, in their search for food, transfer pollen from the anther to stigmas of flowers

pollution: contamination of soil, water, or atmosphere by the discharge of harmful substances

population: the number of a particular species in a defined area

population bottleneck: a decrease in the genetic diversity of a population that happens when the size of a population decreases due to a disturbance

porosity: the amount of space between soil particles; determines how much water and nutrients can seep through to plant roots along with the size of organisms that can inhabit the soil

pothole: depressions in the land—usually caused by glaciers—that fill in with water and form small lakes and ponds

prairie: a grassland habitat, characterized by precipitation from 12 to 40 inches, high evaporation rates and periodic fires

predaceous: living by seizing or taking prey

predation: the act of preying upon

predator: an animal that kills and eats other animals

prediction: a statement foretelling likely outcomes on the basis of observations and reasoning

prescribed burning: the planned application of fire to natural fuels with the intent to confine the burning to a predetermined area

preservation: protection that emphasizes nonconsumptive values and uses; to keep in a pristine or unaltered condition

prey: animals that are killed and eaten by other animals

primary consumer: a consumers that eats producers

primary producer: an organism that is able to manufacture food from simple organic substances

private lands: lands owned by particular people who can determine, within the law, how those lands will be used or managed

proboscis: a butterfly's tongue

producer: a green plant or bacterium that uses photosynthesis or chemosynthesis to make its own food and constitutes first trophic level in food chain; makers of a product

public lands: lands managed for and used by the public

pupa: the stage of complete metamorphoses the larval stage and adult (or imago) stage



rain shadow: an area on the leeward side of a mountain barrier that receives little rainfall

rainfall: the quantity of rain falling in a given area over a given time

range: the geographic region where a plant or animal normally lives and grows; an area grazed by livestock, wildlife, or both

rare: referring to wildlife species not presently in danger but of concern because of low numbers

real: actually present or occurring in the world; having verifiable existence

recovery: as related to conservation, when threats to an endangered or threatened species have been reduced to ensure the long-term survival of the species in the wild

recreation: entertainment that refreshes one's mind or body, frequently implying activity in the out-of-doors

regulation: control of an activity, process, law, or industry by official rules

reintroduction: as related to conservation, when a plant or animal species is introduced back into their natural habitat

renewable resource: a commodity or resource— such as plants and animals—that is replaceable by new growth and that has the capacity to renew itself when conditions for survival are favorable

reporting: giving a spoken or written account of something that one has observed, heard, done, or investigated

reptile: a class of vertebrate animals that have scales, typically lay amniotic eggs, and are ectothermic; includes crocodilians, turtles, lizards, snakes, and tuatara

resilience: the ability of an ecosystem to cope with and deal with outside stressors

resource: a portion of an environment that people have assigned value or that people see as being available for use

responsibility: an obligation to or accountability for something or someone

restoration: the act or process of bringing something back to a previous condition or position

revenue: money generated

riparian: located or relating to the banks of a stream, river, or other body of water

rodent: mammals with large incisors adapted for gnawing or nibbling (e.g., rabbits, rats, mice)

roost: a place where animals, particularly birds and bats, stay during their resting hours; also, the act of resting in such a place

sand: soil type with the largest particles and the highest porosity; it is easy for water to pass through, which can allow for plant roots to be unstable

savanna: a flat grassland with scattered trees or clumps of trees of tropical and subtropical regions

scale: a common feature of maps that indicates the proportional relationship between the distance or size of an object on a map and the actual distance or size in real life

scat: fecal material

scavenger: an organism that habitually feeds on refuse or carrion

science: the systematic study, through observation and experimentation of the natural world, the physical world, and the universe

season: parts of the year defined by differing weather patterns caused by the Earth's rotation around the sun; a time when hunting, fishing, or trapping is permitted for a particular species)

secondary consumer: consumers that eat either the primary consumers or the primary consumers and producers

seed: the part of a flowering plant that is able to develop into another plant of that species

segment: one of several parts of an organism

sense: perception through smell, sight, sound, taste, and/or touch; to be aware of

shelter: cover for natal activity or bedding and protection from weather

silt: particle size in between clay and sand; drains better than clay

skink: any of a family of smooth, shiny lizards having a cylindrical body and small or rudimentary legs and living chiefly in temperate and tropical regions

sky glow: illumination of the night sky often associated with artificial lights of cities and other urban areas

social media: online means of communications used by large groups of people to develop social and professional contacts

soil fertility: how nutrient-rich soil is

soil horizon: levels of soil in regards to depth in the ground; different horizons house different organisms, levels of decomposition, and fertility

soil profile: composition of the soil

solar energy: energy that is harvested from the sun's heat and light

source: the origins, or beginnings, of something; where something originally came from

space: the habitat area that an animal needs to survive, which varies in size

species: a group of organisms distinguished by their ability to breed and produce fertile offspring under natural conditions; a category of biological classification

species richness: how many different species there are in an area

succession: the orderly, gradual, and continuous replacement of one plant or animal community by another



survival: the state of continuing to live, typically in spite of challenging circumstances

survival needs: fundamental requirements for staying alive (i.e., food, water, shelter, space); also known as basic needs

sustainable: able to be maintained or kept going

sustainability: maintaining resources in such a way that they are able to renew themselves over time or to stay in existence without significantly reduced quality or quantity

sustainable communities: communities of people that are planned in a way to cause minimal environmental stress

sustainable development: development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (*Brundtland Commission, 1987*).

symbiosis: a close living relationship between organisms

symbol: something that represents or stands for something else

synthetic: man-made

tame: no longer wild

technology: the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes

terrestrial: living or growing on land

territory: dominance over a unit of habitat; an area defended by an animal against others of the same species

tertiary consumer: a consumer that is a top predator and eats primary and secondary consumers

thermoregulation: the manner in which an organism maintains its body temperature within a certain range; endothermy and ectothermy are two different types of thermoregulation

thicket: a dense group of bushes or trees

thorax: the middle section of the body between the head and abdomen

threatened: in wildlife terms, a species present in its range but in danger because of a decline in numbers

topography: the technique of representing surface areas of land on maps

toxic: poisonous

track: (noun) a single animal footprint; (verb) determine an animal's movement and location by following its trail

trade-off: losing one quality or aspect of something in return for gaining another

trail: a set of tracks in succession

transect: a straight line or narrow section through an object or natural feature or across the earth's surface, along which observations are made or measurements taken.

transplant: to transfer from one area to another; also "translocate"

transportation systems: the infrastructure that allows people in a community to move from place to place

tree: a woody plant 12 or more feet (4 or more meters) tall with a single main stem (trunk) and a more or less distinct crown of leaves

trophic level: a group of living things that share the same level in the food chain

ungulate: a hoofed animal

unguligrade: term used to describe animals that walk on their toenails or hooves; examples are deer and elk

value: a worth attached to a place, idea, event, person, animal, etc; a guiding principle or standard of behavior used by groups of people

vector: the means, or transport mechanism, by which a species is moved from one location to another

vegetation: the mass of plants that covers a given area

vertebrate: an animal that has a backbone

vulnerable: species that are especially susceptible to becoming endangered

waterfowl: water birds, usually ducks or geese

water: the transparent fluid that forms the world's lakes, streams, oceans, and rain, and is the major constituent of all living things

weather: changes in the Earth's atmosphere (e.g., temperature, cloudiness, moisture) which occur by hour, day, or week

wild: not tamed or domesticated, living in a basically free condition; a wild animal provides for its own food, shelter, and other needs in an environment that serves as a suitable habitat

wildlife: animals that are not tamed or domesticated including, but is not limited to, insects, spiders, birds, reptiles, fish, amphibians, and mammals, if nondomesticated

wildlife management: the application of scientific knowledge and technical skills to protect, preserve, conserve, limit, enhance, or extend the value of wildlife and its habitat

wind energy: energy that is harvested from the movement of air over turbines, causing them to rotate and generate power

zoning law: laws that divide land into areas according to what type of use or construction is allowed in that area

zoo: an establishment that maintains a collection of animals usually to exhibit to the public

