Leading Harvest Farmland Management Standard 2025

United States of America Glossary

Agricultural best management practices: A practice or combination of practices developed by land grant agricultural universities in a region considered to be an effective means (including technological, financial, environmental, social and institutional considerations) of achieving a sustainable agriculture goal (modified from US EPA definition). A region is a homogenous area with respect to crops produced, soil type, climatic conditions, crop association and generally accepted farming practices.

Agricultural chemicals: Substances such as *fertilizers*, liming and acidifying agents, road dust stabilizers, *crop protectants* (including insecticides, herbicides, fungicides and nematicides) and other agricultural inputs used to enhance or support agriculture production.

Agricultural land: Land that is used directly or indirectly in the production of *agricultural products* including *cropland*, *grassland*, *rangeland*, *pasture* and other land on which *agricultural products* or livestock are produced and resource concerns may be addressed. It may include cropped woodland, marshes, incidental areas included in the agricultural operation, and other types of land used for production of livestock (USDA NRCS).

Agricultural practices: Specific methods including tillage system, planting, application practices for *fertilizers* and *crop protectants*, harvesting and other cropping practices that are applied to grow and harvest annual or perennial *crops* for food, animal feed, forage, fiber, oilseed and other *agricultural products*.

Agricultural products: *Crops* for food, animal feed, forage, fiber, oilseed, medicine, cultural practices, fermentation products, or fuel, livestock and livestock products, including, but not limited to, field *crops*, fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains, horticultural specialties, cattle, sheep, hogs, goats, horses, poultry, furbearing animals, milk, eggs and furs (USDA).

Agricultural waste: Refers to *solid waste* that is generated by the rearing of animals or the production and harvest of *agricultural products*. This may include, but is not limited to, poultry and livestock manure and residual materials in liquid or solid form generated from the production and marketing of poultry, livestock, furbearing animals, other livestock products and *crop residues* from row *crops* and permanent *crops* (US EPA).

Appropriate: Suitable or proper in the circumstances for a particular purpose. Considerations may include whether an activity will achieve the goal of an *indicator* or *performance measure* in a specific setting, is practical and reasonable and contributes to achieving regulatory compliance or obtaining social license.

Appropriate deforestation cutoff date: A date (day, month and year) specified by the most relevant biome- or geography-specific *deforestation* protocol(s) after which farmed land cannot have been deforested. An example of a relevant *deforestation* protocol could include, but is not limited to, Canadian Boreal Forest Conservation Framework.

Biodiversity: The variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions and structures of plants, animals and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local to regional to global (SFI). This includes soil organisms, pollinators, beneficial organisms, agricultural and *grassland* plants and *wildlife*.

Biosecurity: Biosecurity refers to the "implementation of practices that create barriers in order to reduce the risk of the introduction and spread of disease agents. The three principal elements of biosecurity are: 1) Segregation The creation and maintenance of barriers to limit the potential opportunities for infected animals and contaminated materials to enter an uninfected site. This step, properly applied, will prevent most infection. 2)Cleaning Materials (e.g. vehicles, equipment) that have to enter (or leave) a site must be thoroughly cleaned to remove visible dirt. This will reduce the risk from a contaminant (organism). 3)Disinfection Properly applied, disinfection will inactivate any contaminant that is present on materials that have already been thoroughly cleaned. (FAO, World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and the World Bank, 'Biosecurity for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza', 2008)

Certification body: An independent third party that is accredited and competent to conduct certifications to the *Leading Harvest Standard*.

Climate change: Change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g., by using statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or the variability of its properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. It may be due to natural internal processes or external forcings or to persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

Climate-smart agriculture (practices): Practices and principles that promote sustainable increases in agricultural productivity (including sustainable intensification) while adapting to *climate change* and reducing *greenhouse gas* emissions (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

Conservation: 1. *Protection* of plant and animal *habitat*. 2. Management of a renewable natural resource with the *objective* of sustaining its productivity in perpetuity while providing for human use compatible with sustainability of the resource.

Contract management company: A third-party company used by a *Standard user* to directly operate *enrolled farmland*.

Covenant of quiet enjoyment: A covenant that promises that the grantee or tenant of an estate in real property will be able to possess the premises in peace, without disturbance by hostile claimants. Quiet enjoyment is a right to the undisturbed use and enjoyment of real property by a tenant.

Cover cropping: Close-growing *crops* that provide soil *protection*, seeding *protection* and soil improvement between periods of normal crop production or between trees in orchards and vines in vineyards. This may include, but is not limited to, grasses, legumes and forbs for seasonal cover, soil improvement, and other *conservation* purposes (USDA).

Critically imperiled: A plant species, animal species or *natural community*, often referred to as G1, that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction. Typically, five or fewer occurrences or populations remain, or very few individuals (less than 1,000), acres (less than 2,000 acres or 809 hectares) or linear miles (less than 10 miles or 16 kilometers) exist (NatureServe).

Critical external factor: Any off-farm attribute or factor that is materially and substantially relevant to the viability, long-term profitability, and sustainability of agricultural production of a management unit or farm. These may include economic factors (e.g., labor availability, regional market demand and opportunities, regulatory changes, *farmland tenant* availability, supplier availability and technological advancements), environmental factors (e.g., *climate change*, regional availability of water, and other inputs), and social factors (e.g., social license).

Crop: Plant species that are purposefully grown and/or harvested to satisfy human and livestock needs. They can include plants grown for food, feed, forage, fiber, decorative purposes, oilseed, medicine, cultural practices, fermentation products or fuel, including, but not limited to, field crops, hay or forage, fruits, vegetables, nuts, grains and horticultural specialties. *Cover crops* and companion *crops* may be considered *crops* if purposefully grown.

Cropland: Land used primarily for the direct production of *agricultural products* for harvest, including, but not limited to, land in row crops or close-grown *crops*, forage *crops* that are in a rotation with row or close-grown *crops*, permanent hay land, horticultural *crops*, orchards, vineyards, cropped woodland, marshes, cranberry bogs and other lands used to produce *crops* (USDA NRCS).

Crop productivity: The inherent capacity of a particular site to produce a *crop*, often measured in volume or weight.

Crop protectants: Substances used to control weeds and unwanted or harmful pests, such as insects and mites, or pathogens on *agricultural lands*. They are divided into categories according to the target organisms they are designed to control (NRCS USDA). This includes herbicides (to control weeds and other plants), insecticides (to control insects), fungicides (to control fungi or other plant pathogens), nematicides (to control parasitic worms) and rodenticides (to control rodents). They also encompass soil fumigants, plant growth regulators, defoliants and desiccants. They can be synthetic (developed in laboratories and manufactured) or natural.

Crop residues: Materials from growing *crops* left on the soil surface or partially incorporated into the surface layer of *cropland* to reduce soil erosion, conserve soil moisture and improve soil tilth (USDA). These materials may include, but are not limited to, stalks, stubble, leaves, chipped branches and vines, woody biomass from orchard and vineyard redevelopment and seed pods.

Crop genetic diversity: Variation in genetic and phenotypic characteristics of plants used in agriculture. Its two components are the genetic diversity within each *crop* (within-*crop* diversity, including different *crop* varieties or hybrids of the same species) and the number of *crop* species commonly grown (between-*crop* diversity).

Deforestation: The conversion of *forest* to another land use or the long-term reduction of the tree canopy cover below the minimum 10 percent threshold. It includes areas of *forest* converted to agriculture, *pasture*, water reservoirs, residential and industrial areas, and urban areas (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

Ecologically Important Sites: Sites of exceptional ecological importance including areas with *critically imperiled* or *imperiled* species or *natural communities* (species or *natural communities* with NatureServe global conservation status ranks of G1 or G2), rare *natural communities* or unique ecological landscape features.

Energy-efficient agricultural practices: Practices that deliver more services for the same energy input or the same services for less energy input (modified from International Energy Agency definition of energy efficiency).

Enrolled lands: Lands managed by the *Standard user* and enrolled under the *Leading Harvest Standard* and subject to third-party audit to the *Leading Harvest Standard*.

Equal Opportunity Employment: To provide employment where an employer agrees not to discriminate against any employee or job applicant because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, physical or mental disability, or age.

Equitable: Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (e.g. sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation). (WHO)

Fair wage or fair compensation: Often used interchangeably with living wage. However, a fair wage is a broader concept that encompasses the idea of equitable compensation for work performed. It means paying workers a wage that is reasonable, and in line with their skills, experience, and market conditions.

Farmland: Land that includes *cropland*, *rangeland*, *grassland*, *pasture* land, incidental *forest* land and *wetlands* that are part of an agricultural operation (USDA NRCS).

Farmland tenant: A lessee of *farmland* where the lease is managed by a *Standard user*.

Farm labor contractor: A person or business who charges a fee to recruit, transport, supply or hire seasonal farmworkers to work for or under the direction, supervision or control of *Standard user* or a *contract management company* under the oversight of a *Standard user* (US DOL).

Fertilizer: Any organic or inorganic material of natural or synthetic origin (other than liming materials) that is added to a soil to supply one or more nutrients essential to the growth of plants (USDA NRCS).

Forest: Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 percent and area of more than 1.2 acres (0.5 hectares) with tree species largely of indigenous origin. The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 16.4 feet (5 meters) at maturity in situ. It may consist either of closed *forest* formations where trees of various heights and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations).

Gender-equitable: The fair treatment for men and women according to their respective needs. This may include equal treatment or treatment that is different, but which is considered equivalent in terms of rights, benefits, obligations and opportunities (UNESCO). Equivalency between men and women does not mean that women and men have to become the same, but that their rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they were born male or female.

Grasslands: Natural or seminatural land defined by the following characteristics: (1) a non-wetland formation; (2) vascular vegetation has at least 10 percent cover; (3) graminoids have at least 25 percent cover (but if less than 25 percent cover, graminoids exceed that of other herbaceous and shrub cover); (4) broad-leaved herbs (forbs) may have variable levels of cover and dominance; (5) shrubs have less than 25 percent canopy cover; (6) and trees: (i) in temperate zones, typically have less than 10 percent canopy cover, are less than 5 meters tall and single-layered or (ii) in tropical regions, typically have less than 40 percent canopy cover, are less than 8 meters tall and are single layered (Dixon et al. 2014).

Greenhouse gases: Gases in the atmosphere that can absorb infrared radiation from the sun, trapping outgoing energy in the form of heat in the atmosphere. Key *greenhouse gases* include carbon dioxide (CO_2), nitrous oxide (N2O), methane (CH4), sulfur hexafluoride (SF6), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) (U.S. EPA).

Groundwater: Water that exists underground in saturated zones beneath the land surface. The upper surface of the saturated zone is called the water table (USGS).

Groundwater depletion: A long-term decline in levels of *groundwater* caused by sustained *groundwater* pumping within a watershed or catchment (USGS).

Groundwater regulatory agency: A local, regional, state or federal public authority or government agency with statutory authority to exercise regulatory or supervisory oversight in the use and/or extraction of *groundwater*.

Habitat: A place, natural or otherwise (including climate, food, cover and water), where an individual or population of animal species or plant species naturally or normally lives and develops.

Hazardous waste: Waste that is dangerous or potentially harmful to human health or the environment, which can be liquid, solid, gas or sludge. It can be discarded commercial products, like leftover cleaning fluids or *crop protectants*, or the byproducts of manufacturing processes (U.S. EPA).

Imperiled (species): A plant species, animal species or *natural community*, often referred to as G2, that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination. Typically, six to 20 occurrences, or few remaining individuals (1,000 to 3,000), or acres (2,000 to 10,000 acres or 809 to 4,047 hectares), or linear miles (10 to 50 miles or 16 to 80.5 kilometers) exist.

Indicator: A specific metric that provides information about an organization's agricultural and environmental performance and that is integral to assessing conformance to the *Leading Harvest Standard*.

Indigenous Peoples: People defined in international or national legislation as having a set of specific rights based on their historical ties to a particular territory and their cultural or historical distinctiveness from other populations that are often politically dominant. More specifically, they are defined in the United States as members of federally recognized tribes and in Canada as those peoples that are defined by section 35(2) of the Constitution Act, 1982 (SFI).

Integrated Pest Management: The control of *pests*, including insects, at tolerable levels below economic thresholds, by the planned use of a variety of preventive, suppressive or regulatory tactics and strategies that are ecologically and economically efficient and socially acceptable (USDA, U.S. EPA). *Appropriate* techniques may include, but are not limited to, enhancement of natural enemies, planting pest-resistant crops, adaptation of cultural management and judicious use of *crop protectants*.

Land use conversion: A change in the extent or composition of an ecosystem or *habitat* where there is a shift from one land use to another that is considered significant or irreversible.

Living wage: The minimum income necessary for an employee or contract worker to meet their basic needs, which can include minimum food, child care, health insurance, housing, transportation and costs of other basic necessities (e.g., clothing, personal care items, etc.), such that public assistance is not necessary to meet basic needs. It does not address other needs such as entertainment, recreation or income for unpaid vacation (MIT).

Low-emission technologies: Advanced technologies used to significantly reduce *greenhouse gas* emissions levels, airborne pollutants and other adverse environmental impacts. This can include high-efficiency equipment and technology using *renewable energy* (e.g., hybrid vehicles, solar energy).

Lowest risk, most selective treatment options: A treatment used to control site-specific *pests* that *minimizes* impact to nontarget organisms and people and has the least overall impact while meeting management *objectives*. Considerations may include the target *pest*, the degree of control needed, cost, the season and timing of application, rates and methods, terrain, crop conditions and the presence or absence of water bodies.

Minimize: To do only that which is necessary and *appropriate* to accomplish the task or *objective* described.

Native habitats: Areas where a native species naturally occurs and that have the living and nonliving environmental conditions necessary for survival, including areas for feeding, shelter, *protection* and/or reproduction.

Natural communities: An assemblage of interacting plant species and animal species and their common environment, recurring across the landscape, in which the effects of human intervention are minimal. The vegetation is largely indigenous origin defined by a characteristic range of species composition, diagnostic species occurrence, habitat conditions and physiognomy. They reflect subregional to local topo-edaphic factors of substrates, hydrology, disturbance regimes and climate (NatureServe). Three characteristics distinguish natural communities: 1) plant species composition, 2) vegetation structure (e.g., forest, shrubland or marsh) and 3) a specific combination of physical conditions (e.g., water, light, nutrient levels and climate). Grassland and shrub areas that have been plowed or otherwise have had extensive soil disturbance and removal of the vegetation in the past are typically not natural communities. Forests on sites that have been converted to other land uses (e.g., agriculture) in the past and subsequently allowed to regrow trees are typically not natural communities. Human-made wetlands from wetland mitigation projects on sites that have been converted in the past from other land uses (e.g., agriculture) or cleared forest and graminoid and/or shrub wetlands occupying sites once plowed or having extensive soil disturbance in the past are typically not considered to be natural wetlands.

Natural forest: *Forest* composed of indigenous trees and not classified as a planted *forest*.

Nutrient management: To manage the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients and *soil amendments* to ensure adequate *soil fertility* for plant production and to *minimize* the potential for environmental degradation, particularly *water quality* impairment (USDA NRCS) and unnecessary air emissions.

Objective: A fundamental goal.

Pasture: (1) Grazing lands comprised of introduced or domesticated native forage species that are used primarily for the production of livestock. They receive periodic renovation and/or cultural treatments such as tillage, fertilization, mowing and weed control, and may be irrigated. They are not in rotation with *crops*. (2) A grazing area enclosed and separated from other areas by fencing or other barriers; the management unit for grazing land. (3) Forage plants used as food for grazing animals. (4) Any area devoted to the production of forage, native or introduced, and harvested by grazing (USDA).

Performance measure: A means of judging whether an *objective* has been fulfilled.

Pests: Organisms that interfere with the production and utilization of crops and livestock used for food, fiber and other *agricultural products*; these include insects, mites, nematodes, plant pathogens, weeds and vertebrates (USDA).

Policy: A written statement of commitment to meet an *objective* or to implement a defined *program* or plan to achieve an *objective* or outcome.

Prime farmland: Land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing *agricultural products* and is available for these uses. It could be *cropland*, *pasture*, *forest* or other land, but it is not urban or built-up land or water areas. The soil quality, growing season and moisture supply are those needed for the soil to economically produce sustained high yields of *crops* when proper management, including water management, and acceptable farming methods are applied. In general, *prime farmland* has an adequate and dependable supply of moisture from precipitation or irrigation, a favorable temperature and growing season, acceptable acidity or alkalinity, an acceptable salt and sodium content, and few or no rocks. The water

supply is dependable and of adequate quality. *Prime farmland* is permeable to water and air. It is not excessively erodible or saturated with water for long periods, and it either is not frequently flooded during the growing season or is protected from flooding. Slope ranges mainly from 0 to 6 percent (USDA NRCS).

Process: A series of purposeful actions or operations that leads to a sought-after end or outcome. This can include a set or sequence of informal or formal practices, procedures or routines.

Professional work environment: A nondiscriminatory workplace environment free from harassment and composed of competent, respectful, mature and accountable employees working toward a common goal.

Program: An organized system, *process*, or set of activities to achieve an *objective*, *performance measure* or *indicator.*

Protection: Maintenance of the status or integrity, over the long term, of identified attributes or values including management where *appropriate*, giving consideration to past disturbance, land use, and *pest* risk when determining *appropriate* conservation strategies.

Rangeland: Land on which the climax or potential plant cover is composed principally of native grasses, grasslike plants, forbs or shrubs suitable for grazing and browsing, and introduced forage species that are managed like rangeland. This would include areas where introduced hardy and persistent grasses, such as crested wheatgrass, are planted, and practices, such as deferred grazing, burning, chaining and rotational grazing are used with little or no chemicals or *fertilizer* being applied. It includes *grassland*, savannas, many *wetlands*, some deserts, tundra and certain low forb shrub communities, such as mesquite, chaparral, mountain shrub and pinyon-juniper. (NRCS USDA).

Regulatory action information: Information related to compliance with government regulations such as permits, reports and corrective action documentation.

Renewable energy: Energy from sources that are naturally replenishing but flow-limited. It is virtually inexhaustible in duration but limited in the amount of energy that is available per unit of time (US EIA), including wood, waste, geothermal, wind, photovoltaic, tidal and wave, hydropower and solar thermal energy.

Riparian area: A transition zone characterized by vegetation or geomorphology adjacent to rivers, streams, lakes, *wetlands* and other water bodies (USGS).

Runoff: Water from precipitation or irrigation on an area that does not infiltrate, but instead is discharged from the area. The water that flows off the surface of the land without sinking into the soil is called surface *runoff*. Water that enters the soil before reaching *surface water* is called *groundwater runoff* or seepage flow from *groundwater* (USDA).

Soil amendments: Materials that typically are added to soil, plants or the plant-growth environment to enhance plant growth. These include *fertilizers*, compost, sludge, manure, microbes, additives, materials improving soil condition (i.e., adjusting the pH of the soil, improving soil structure and texture, aeration adjustment and moisture conservation among others), materials controlling or suppressing *crop pests*, and others or combinations thereof. Inorganic *soil amendments* are composed of synthetic chemicals and/or minerals, while organic *soil amendments* are often composed of organic matter from plant/animal sources and/or microbes, and may include materials such as manure, earthworm castings, soil, sphagnum peat, grass clippings, straw, wood chips, various composts, seaweed, guano, or naturally occurring mineral deposits (e.g., saltpeter), and living microorganisms, among others (USDA).

Soil degradation: is defined as a change in the soil health status resulting in a diminished capacity of the ecosystem to provide goods and services for its beneficiaries. Degraded soils have a health status such, that they do not provide the normal goods and services of the particular soil in its ecosystem. (FAO)

Soil erosion: A *process* by which soil and rock are removed by water and wind and then transported and deposited in other locations (USDA).

Soil fertility: The quality that enables a soil to provide plant nutrients, in adequate amounts and in proper balance, for the growth of specified plants when light, moisture, temperature, tilth and other growth factors are favorable.

Soil health: The capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains *crops*, soil organisms and humans. Its maintenance includes consideration of the physical, chemical and biological characteristics of soil (USDA).

Soil loss: *Soil erosion* where the removal of topsoil occurs faster than the soil-forming processes can replace it due to natural, animal and human activity.

Soil mismanagement: Agricultural operations, practices and/or treatments that result in the decline of *soil health* and *soil productivity*, including *soil* loss.

Soil productivity: The capability of a soil for producing a specified plant or sequence of plants under specific management (USDA NRCS).

Solid waste: Any solid, semisolid, liquid or contained gaseous materials discarded from agricultural operations. It includes garbage, construction debris, commercial refuse, sludge from water supply or waste treatment plants and other discarded materials (RCRA US EPA).

Special sites: Sites that include *unique geological features* or *unique culturally important features* that are recognized regionally or nationally or by *Indigenous Peoples*.

Species at risk: Species that have been highlighted by NatureServe as *critically imperiled* (G1) or *imperiled* (G2).

Standard user: An organization certified or committed to being certified by an accredited *certification body* to be in conformance with the *Leading Harvest Standard*.

Sub-national: Subnational (including local) governments are governance units at various levels, within countries, and are accountable to national governments to varying degrees. (CBD)

Surface water: Water that is on the Earth's surface, such as in a stream, river, lake or reservoir (USGS).

Surplus food: A food that is still perfectly edible and safe for human consumption, but exists, for example, because it has failed to meet aesthetic specifications, or is past its 'sell by' or 'best before' dates. Much of this food ends up as waste. If diverted in time, a sizeable share of this food can instead be redirected for human consumption, helping to alleviate hunger, and creating several benefits for the generating firms. (FAO)

Treaty rights: Rights specified in treaties between *Indigenous Peoples* and the U.S. government. These rights are based on the legal foundations of tribal sovereignty, treaty provisions, and the "reserved rights" doctrine, which holds that *Indigenous Peoples* retain all rights not explicitly abrogated in treaties or other legislation (U.S. DOI). Typically this is expressed in terms of reserved rights aimed at permitted hunting, fishing and gathering in areas near *Indigenous Peoples* reservations.

Unique culturally important features: Features having significance for or being representative of human activities or beliefs. Examples could include, but are not limited to, documented areas such as archaeological sites, unusual historical sites, cemeteries and sacred sites. Typically these sites have been documented in databases established by state governments or the federal government and have been significant historically.

Unique geological features: Naturally occurring physical features on Earth's surface, which are unique or locally rare, typically limited in extent (0.1 to 100 acres), often less than 10 acres. Examples could include, but are not limited to, exceptional waterfalls, stream or river gorges, canyons, arches, caves or mine entrances, outcrops of fossil beds or rare mineral deposits, bluffs, buttes and cliffs.

Verifiable monitoring system: A system capable of being audited by a third party that includes: 1. a means to characterize *farmland* under the authority of a *Standard user*, 2. a *process* to identify and use sources of available data regarding the use of *regional agricultural best management practices*, and 3. a method to assess *farmland tenant* performance.

Viable occurrences: Occurrences of species with good or excellent viability according to NatureServe, including occurrences that exhibit favorable characteristics with respect to population size and/or quality and quantity of occupied *habitat*, and, if current conditions prevail, the occurrence is likely to persist for the foreseeable future (i.e., at least 20-30 years) in its current condition or better (NatureServe).

Water quality: The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water, with respect to its suitability for a particular purpose (e.g., drinking water for humans or livestock, commercial and industrial use, aquatic species *habitat* and crop irrigation [USGS]).

Wetlands: A transitional area between aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that is inundated or saturated for periods long enough to produce hydric soils and support hydrophytic vegetation largely of native origin. Examples can include, but are not limited to, (1) seasonally or permanently water-logged areas characterized by vegetation adapted for life in saturated/ flooded conditions; (2) areas that are forested, shrubby or open, including bogs, fens, swamps, marshes and shallow open water areas; and (3) stagnant systems (e.g., bogs), slow flowing (e.g., fens, swamps), or have fluctuating water levels (e.g., marshes, shallow open water; CWA U.S. EPA).

Wildlife: Aquatic (freshwater), marine and terrestrial fauna.

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