

8.0 GLOSSARY

Abundance – the total number of individuals present, usually based on estimates, in a specific area.

Anthropogenic – something that is caused by humans.

Boreal forest – needle-leaved evergreen or coniferous forest bordering sub-polar regions.

Density-dependence – regulation of size of a population by mechanisms whose effectiveness increases as population size increases.

Ecosystem – all living organisms in an area and the non-living parts of the environment upon which they depend, as well as all interactions, both among living and non-living components of the ecosystem.

Environment – 1) the total of all the surrounding natural conditions that affect the existence of living organisms on earth, including air, water, soil, minerals, climate, and the organisms themselves; and, 2) the local complex of such conditions that affects a particular organism and ultimately determines its physiology and survival.

Habitat – the place where a plant or animal lives; often related to a function such as spawning, feeding, etc.

Indicator species – species, groups of species or species habitat elements that focus management attention on resource production, population recovery, population viability or ecosystem diversity; these species often have narrower habitat requirements that can be used to indicate the relative suitability of habitat for other species that share a similar preference e.g., American marten is primarily a denizen of mature or overmature forest dominated by spruce.

Keystone species – species that have an effect on many other species in an ecosystem disproportionate to their abundance or biomass - can be predators, prey, plants, mutualists and habitat modifiers (e.g., beaver, pileated woodpecker)

Mammal sign – physical evidence of animal presence such as tracks, fecal material, resting sites, and habitation features such as dens or burrows and indications of food consumption such as middens or predation sites. In this study, actual sightings of animals were also collected as mammal sign data.

Monitoring – measurement or collection of data to determine whether change is occurring in something of interest.

Push-up – a temporary shelter for muskrats composed of weeds and sticks above holes. They usually emerge from their bank burrows, into the water under the ice, and go on long foraging

trips in search of food. When food is located, it is brought back to the push-up, which may be closer than the den, and consumed. The push-up is also used as a resting place.

Riparian – pertaining to anything connected with or immediately adjacent to the banks of a stream or other body of water. Riparian mammals, such as beaver, rely on the water and shorelines that characterize riparian habitats either continuously or seasonally for food, shelter and reproduction.

Snow interception cover – Closed-canopy coniferous forest habitat that intercept snow, provide shelter, and minimize radiation of heat to the open sky.

Taxonomy – the classification of organisms in a hierarchical system or in taxonomic ranks (*e.g.*, order, family, genus, species) based on shared characteristics or relationships inferred from the fossil record or established by genetic analysis.

Terrestrial – of or concerning the land. Terrestrial habitats are upland or non-aquatic habitats. Terrestrial mammals such as wolves depend primarily on upland or non-aquatic habitats for growth, reproduction and survival.

Umbrella species – species with large area requirements. Conservation of these species should automatically conserve a host of other species (*e.g.*, grizzly bear).