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## APPENDIX K. Definitions of Threats

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**Altered composition/structure** – Changes in the natural/native landscape of aquatic and terrestrial systems; (examples include removal of fire from the landscape which leads to successional changes, stream channelization which reduces underwater habitat, invasive/alien species which can alter the existing plant and/or animal species composition.)

**Altered water quality** – Changes in the naturally occurring water composition or chemistry; (examples might include point/non-point source runoff pollution resulting in, elevated nutrient levels, turbidity, changes in pH, dissolved O<sub>2</sub> level, temperature etc.)

**Change in landuse practices** – Changes to a landscape that occur due to land use needs; (examples include agriculture lands replaced by urban expansion, increasing crop production practices due to market factors by putting more land into production.)

**Competition for resources** – Competition for resources such as food, water, or living space; (examples include the introduction of invasive species or reduction/loss of habitat thereby forcing species into closer confines/contact.)

**Groundwater depletion** – Loss of groundwater resulting from over-extraction; (examples include agriculture, industrial, and urban needs.)

**Habitat destruction or conversion** – Habitat which is permanently altered so that it no longer functions in its historical form.

**Habitat disturbance** – Habitat which is affected by short-term actions but still able to function in its historical form; (examples include incompatible agriculture or forestry practices which increase sediment load of a stream, effects from off-road vehicles, roads & utilities construction.)

**Habitat fragmentation** – Habitat which loses its connectivity by removal or alteration of portions of the habitat.

**Herbivory** – Alteration/changes to the natural landscape primarily the result of grazing practices, invasive animals, or over population of native animals; (examples include cattle grazing in a native grassland environment, nutria damage to marshland, deer over-browse in a forested environment, carp damage to SAV habitat.)

**Loss of genetic diversity** – Reduction in the available gene pool of a species; primarily the result of habitat loss or fragmentation thereby lessening the ability of disjunct populations from freely intermingling.

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## APPENDIX K. Definitions of Threats cont.

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**Modification of water levels; changes in natural flow patterns** – Actions which alter the natural state of a stream, wetland, lake, etc; (examples include dams or impoundments and resultant releases, channelization for commerce or flood control, leveeing for flood control.)

**Nutrient loading** – Elevation of the naturally occurring nutrient levels; primarily the result of agriculture and urban runoff along with industrial discharges.

**Predation/parasitism/disease** – Factors which cause a reduction in a population due to initiation of predation, parasitism or diseases. Effects may be exacerbated by certain land-use management practices.

**Resource depletion** – Results from the over harvesting of animal species, the removal of natural resources, or invasive species; (examples include over fishing of feeder stocks which may impact higher food chain species; the extraction of oil & gas which results in land subsidence; invasive species which out-compete native species.)

**Salinity alteration** – Changes in the salinity of a body of water; (examples include the influx of saltwater into a freshwater habitat; increases/changes from industrial/urban sources/runoff.)

**Sedimentation** – The increase in the suspended particle load of a stream, river, lake, wetland, etc. or the decrease in water depth due to the accretion of sediments within streams and lakes; (examples may include agriculture and forestry practices, road and utility creation, recreational vehicle use, etc.)

**Thermal alteration** – Relates primarily to temperature changes in aquatic systems; (examples may include industrial discharges; lack of appropriate SMZ practices.)

**Toxins/contaminants** – Changes in the natural chemical make-up of a terrestrial or aquatic habitat; (examples include increased levels of chemicals from agriculture and forestry practices, industrial discharges, disturbances from gravel/shell mining, effects of channelization, and water releases from a dam or impoundment.)