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## APPENDIX L. Definitions for Sources of Threats

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**Borrow pits** – a hole that's been excavated as a source of fill dirt. These pits can be a site of severe erosion and sediment runoff to adjacent streams and wetlands.

**Channelization of rivers or streams** – The process of altering the naturally occurring contours of a river or stream; primarily a result of economic development and undertaken by the COE; also pertains to the secondary effects of dredging such as spoil placement and the continued maintenance of the river or stream

**Commercial/industrial development** – development which is derived through the construction/expansion of plants, warehouses, box stores, etc and results in habitat loss and disturbance

**Construction of ditches, drainage or diversion systems** – the initial building of these structures and the effects this building process will have on the hydrology and environment

**Construction of navigable waterways** – the creation of artificial waterways for waterborne commerce. The primary example is the Intercoastal waterway in the Gulf Coast Prairies and Marshes

**Conversion to agriculture or other forest types** – habitat which is lost to farming or commercial forestry use and therefore has lost its ability to support those species which were the original inhabitants. The possibility does exist that these lands can be converted back to their original habitat although the associated costs could be high

**Crop production practices** – the effect these practices have on the environment; including the use of chemicals, effects of farm machinery, the methods by which farm land is used or laid out

**Dam construction** – effects from the actual construction of the dam (increased sedimentation loads, terrestrial habitat lost and associated disturbances) and the after effects (reduces aquatic species ability to migrate or intermingle which may lead to loss of genetic diversity)

**Development and maintenance of pipelines, roads or utilities** – the actual effects the construction has on the environment (disturbance, destruction) and the associated after-effects (fragmentation, vectors for invasive/alien species introduction)

**Excessive groundwater withdrawal** – removal of groundwater for farming or human consumption the effects of which can lead to the loss or alteration of a habitat

**Fire suppression** – eliminating the use of fire to maintain a habitat's natural condition; primarily influenced by increasing urban development, the threat of lawsuits, and a general lack of knowledge regarding the historic role fire has played in maintaining many habitat types

**Grazing practices** – negative effects of domesticated herbivore management (cattle)

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## APPENDIX L. Definitions for Sources of Threats cont.

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**Incompatible forestry practices** – methods used by the commercial forestry industry; examples include chemical use, effects of harvesting equipment, non-use of Best Management Practices

**Industrial discharge** – releases of harmful chemicals or gases into the environment from effluent discharges; can be considered to be both point and non-point in origin

**Invasive/alien species** – species of plants and animals which are not native to the U.S. or a particular region; can also refer to the spread of native plant or animal species in increased numbers or where they are not naturally found due to certain types of development, management, or construction practices

**Landfill construction or operation** – the continued development of landfills and the associated impacts on the environment

**Levee or dike construction** – includes both the historic and present day construction; for historic events the primary effect is the loss of natural processes which served to replenish or increase certain types of habitat; for present day activities the primary interest is the effects construction has on the environment such as habitat loss or disturbance; can also be related to effects on the natural flow of water

**Livestock production practices** – this threat includes all effects from the commercial raising of cattle, hogs, sheep, etc.; of primary concern are water quality issues resulting from runoff

**Log deck debris** – debris leftover after removal of trees

**Management of/for certain species** – effects which result from the management of game, non-game or exotic species; used to address areas where species management has a negative influence on a particular habitat (i.e., deer over-browse, beaver influences, etc)

**Mining practices** – this threat relates to surface, subsurface, or in-stream activities and tends to have the biggest impact on the state's aquatic habitats. Excessive stream and river sedimentation is the main problem along with other issues such as terrestrial habitat destruction, disturbance, and altered composition of aquatic habitats

**Oil or gas drilling** – this threat relates to both the initial construction activities such as road building, canal dredging, site development etc., and the effects oil or gas well can have on the environment once it is put into production such as contamination from spills, leaks etc.

**Operation of dams or reservoirs** – this threat is specific to the actual operation and includes such activities as timing of releases which can impact the hydrologic regime of rivers and streams and disturb or alter the composition of adjoining terrestrial habitat

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## APPENDIX L. Definitions for Sources of Threats cont.

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**Operation of drainage or diversion systems** – this threat includes all the major diversion projects designed to control water levels in rivers and lakes which have a negative impact on fish and wildlife habitat

**Parasites/pathogens** – includes native and non-native sources which are influenced/compounded by external activities such as drought conditions, changes in hydrologic regimes, etc

**Recreational use** – this threat relates to all human recreational activities which have a detrimental effect on the habitat such as erosion from hiking/biking, dumping or improper disposal of trash, damage to vegetation, etc.

**Recreational vehicles** – primarily includes all types of motorized and non-motorized vehicles (i.e., atvs, jet skies, boats, horses, motorcycles, cars, trucks etc.)

**Residential development** – this threat includes all activities such as subdivision development, urban and rural single residence development, hunting and fishing camps

**Residential septic systems** – this threat relates to the non-point and point source pollution derived from outdated or unregulated rural sewerage practices

**Resort development** – this threat includes activities which relate to the development of golf courses and casinos and the associated after-effects such as pollution issues

**Saltwater intrusion** – this threat relates specifically to low water levels in rivers, streams or anywhere along the coast which allows saltwater to move into areas were it is normally not found; can also be introduced during hurricanes and other coastal weather events

**Shoreline erosion** – this threat relates to both inland and coastal habitat loss primarily as a result of weather disturbances and the effects of boat wake from commercial and recreational activities; vegetative loss is also a factor

**Shoreline stabilization** – this threat relates to the effects that stabilization activities have on the adjoining habitat from machinery which can disturb habitat, the placement of dredge material which can destroy habitat and disrupt hydrology

**Wastewater treatment** – this threat relates to effluent flows from industry and urban waste treatment sources

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