

APPENDIX E

GLOSSARY

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Affected Environment: The existing biological, physical, cultural, social, and economic conditions of an area that are subjected to both direct and indirect changes, as a result of actions described within alternatives under consideration.

Air Quality: A measure of health and visibility-related characteristics of air often derived from quantitative measurements of the concentrations of specific injurious or contaminating substances.

Alternatives: A reasonable range of options that can accomplish an agency's objectives.

Archeological Resources: Any material remains or physical evidence of past human life or activities, which are of archeological interest, including the record of the effects of human activities on the environment. Such resources are capable of revealing scientific or humanistic information through archeological research.

Canopy: The uppermost layer of a forest where a layer of tree branches spread.

Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ): The President's Council on Environmental Quality was established by the National Environmental Policy Act NEPA and is the agency responsible for the oversight and development of national environmental policy.

Cultural Landscape: A geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources) associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Cultural Resource: An aspect of a cultural system that is valued by or significantly representative of a culture or that contains significant information about a culture. Properties such as landscapes or districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, or cultural practices that are usually greater than 50 years of age and possess architectural, historic, scientific, or other technical value. By their nature, cultural resources are nonrenewable.

Cumulative Effects (impacts): Effects on the environment that result from the incremental impacts of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of which agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor, but collectively significant, actions taking place over a period of time.

Degradation (natural resources): Refers to negative impact(s) to natural resources or natural processes. The impact may be singular or cumulative; the extent may be local or ecosystem-wide. The term degradation is used broadly and may refer to: reduction in habitat size, declining species vigor exhibited as reduced population numbers, reduced reproductive success, increased mortality rates, and/or decreased percent of available habitat utilized.

Easement: a right of use over the property of another.

Environmental Assessment: A detailed statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) when an agency proposed a major action that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Environmental Consequences: A section of an environmental assessment that is the scientific and analytic basis for comparing alternatives. This discussion includes the environmental effects of the alternatives, any adverse effects that cannot be avoided, and short-term, long-term and cumulative effects.

Endangered Species: Any species, which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. These species are listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Erosion: The group of natural processes, including weathering, dissolution, abrasion, corrosion, and transportation, by which material is worn away from the earth's surface.

Exotic: Plant or animal species introduced into an area where they do not occur naturally; non-native species.

Facilities: Refers to buildings, houses, campgrounds, picnic areas, visitor-use areas, operational areas, and associated supporting infrastructure such as roads, trails, and utilities.

Fauna: Animals, especially the animals of a particular region or period, considered as a group.

Fee Simple: Outright ownership of real property.

Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): The public document following the preparation of a final environmental assessment that reflects the agency's final decision, rationale behind the decision, and commitments to monitoring and mitigation.

Floodplain: Land on either side of a stream or river that is submerged during floods. Typically discussed in terms of 50, 100, or 500-year events.

Flora: Plants considered as a group, especially the plants of a particular country, region, or time.

Foraging: The act of looking or searching for food or provisions.

General Management Plan (GMP): The first tier plan for NPS units that provides overall broad management direction.

Greenway: A corridor of undeveloped land, as along a river or between urban centers that is reserved for recreational use or environmental preservation.

Ground Water: All water found below the surface of the ground.

Headwaters: The water from which a river rises; a source.

Hydrology: A science dealing with the properties, distribution and circulation of water on the surface of the land, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere.

Impacts: Effects, both beneficial and adverse, of an action on the human environment. Direct effects are those occurring at the same time and place as the action itself. Indirect effects occur later in time or are farther removed in distance from the action, yet are reasonably foreseeable.

Invertebrate Species: Animals without backbones, such as an insect or mollusk.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): An arrangement between parties regarding a course of action.

Mitigation: An activity designed to avoid, minimize, rectify, reduce or compensate the severity of, or eliminate impacts from the proposed project. A mitigation measure should be a solution to an identified environmental problem.

Monitoring: To keep track of systematically with a view to collecting information.

Multi-use Trail: Trails intended for use by bicycles, equestrians, and pedestrians.

Museum Collection: Objects, works of art, historic documents, and natural history specimens collected according to a rational scheme and maintained so they can be preserved, studied, and interpreted for public benefit.

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA): a law enacted on January 1, 1970 that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA): This act required Federal agencies to give consideration to historic properties determined significant (properties listed on or determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places) prior to expending funding for, authorizing, or licensing a Federal project or permit.

National Park Service (NPS): An agency in the Department of the Interior responsible for protection and preservation of 384 natural and cultural units throughout the United States.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): The comprehensive list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects of national, regional, state, and local significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture kept by the National Park Service under authority of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Natural Resources: Features and values that include plants and animals, water, air, soils, topographic features, geologic features, paleontological resources, natural quiet and clear night skies.

No Action Alternative: An alternative in an environmental assessment that continues current management direction. A no action alternative is a benchmark against which action alternatives are compared.

Organic Act (NPS): the 1916 law (and subsequent amendments) that created the National Park Service and assigned it responsibility to manage the national parks.

Overlook: To look over or at from a higher place, especially so as to afford a view.

Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC): NPS web-based system of projects and activities involved in the operation of NPS units across the country.

Preservation (cultural resource): The act or process of applying measures to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic structure, landscape, or object. Work may include preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, but generally focuses on the ongoing preservation maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new work.

Preservation (natural resource): The act or process of preventing, eliminating, or reducing human-caused impacts to natural resources and natural processes.

Programmatic Agreement (PA): Establishes a program for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

PwL: Parkway Left - when traveling south of the Parkway, anything on the left side of the road is considered "Parkway Left."

PwR: Parkway Right - when traveling south of the Parkway, anything on the right side of the road is considered "Parkway Right."

Right-of-way (ROW): NPS lands or waters crossed by a utility or other authorized use.

Roanoke Valley Conceptual Greenway Plan (CGP): The plan is providing a framework for the development of an interconnected network of trails and greenway corridors throughout the Roanoke region.

Surface Water: Water that naturally flows or settles on top of natural landforms and vegetation, often as rivers, springs, seeps streams, lakes, ponds, and other bodies of water.

Switchback: A road or trail that follows a zigzag course on a steep incline.

Terminus: The final point; the end of the trail.

Topography: The surface features of a place or region.

Trailhead: The place where a trail begins.

Tributary: A stream that flows into a larger stream or other body of water.

Turbidity: Having sediment or foreign particles stirred up or suspended; muddy.

Understory: An underlying layer of vegetation, especially the plants that grow beneath a forest's canopy.

Visitor Experience: The perceptions, feelings, and interaction a park visitor has in relationship with the environment.

Wetland: Lands where saturation with water is the dominant factor determining the nature of soil development and the types of plant and animal communities living in the soil and on its surface.