

Appendix C

Upland Habitat Target Methodology

For purposes of this plan, the targets for upland habitat acquisition and/or restoration were created for the following characteristics:

- *Buffers and Buffer Zones* are 50- to 300-foot wide areas adjoining a wetland, channel, or upland linkage or wildlife corridor that is in a natural or semi-natural state. For wetland and riparian systems, a buffer is to provide a variety of other functions including to maintain or improve water quality by trapping and removing various non-point source pollutants from both overland and shallow subsurface flows, to provide erosion control and water temperature control, to reduce flood peaks, and to serve as groundwater recharge points and habitat. Buffer zones occur in a variety of forms, including herbaceous or grassy areas, grassed waterways, or forested riparian buffer strips. They also may provide for limited passive recreation.
- *Wildlife Corridors or Linkages* are wide areas of native vegetation that connect or have the potential to connect two or more large patches of habitat on a landscape or regional scale through which a species will likely move over time. The move may be multi-generational; therefore, a linkage should provide both wildlife connectivity and biological diversity. A Wildlife Linkage should be a minimum of 1,000 feet in width, be vegetated with native vegetation, and have little or no human intrusion. The goal is to ensure north-south and east-west linkages to mitigate for climate change.