

Commissioner Houck Glossary Items

Ecosystem: noun, Ecology, 1.

A dynamic and interrelating complex of plant and animal communities and their associated nonliving environment.

Source: Page H-7, Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge, Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Assessment

This is essentially the same definition from *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary*
Noun. Ecol. *A system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.*

Personally, I'd favor Webster's in that it uses the term organisms which implies the inclusion of bacteria and other organisms one does not normally associated with animals or plants but are essential to healthy soils and environment. I do, however, like the addition of the word, dynamic in the USFWS.

Therefore, I'd suggest the following definition for Escosystem, which it seems to be should defined, since Ecosystem Services is in the glossary.

A dynamic system formed by the interaction of a community of organisms with their environment.

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Community: Ecol. Noun. *An assemblage of interacting populations occupying a given area.*

Webster's Unabridged

Biodiversity: *The variety of life and its processes, including the variety of living organisms, the genetic differences among them, and communities and ecosystems in which they occur.*

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