

(F) "NONGAME SPECIES" MEANS ANY WILDLIFE SPECIES NOT LEGALLY CLASSIFIED AS GAME BIRDS OR MAMMALS, THREATENED SPECIES, OR AN ENDANGERED SPECIES BY STATUTE OR RULE OR REGULATION OF THE STATE.

(G) "OPTIMUM CARRYING CAPACITY" MEANS THAT POINT AT WHICH A GIVEN HABITAT CAN SUPPORT HEALTHY POPULATIONS OF WILDLIFE SPECIES, HAVING REGARD TO THE TOTAL ECOSYSTEM, WITHOUT DIMINISHING THE ABILITY OF THE HABITAT TO CONTINUE THAT FUNCTION.

(H) "PLANT" MEANS ANY MEMBER OF THE PLANT KINGDOM, INCLUDING SEEDS, ROOTS, AND OTHER PARTS OF THE PLANT.

(I) "SPECIES" INCLUDES ANY SUBSPECIES OF WILDLIFE OR PLANT AND ANY OTHER GROUP OF WILDLIFE OF THE SAME SPECIES OR SMALLER TAXA IN COMMON SPATIAL ARRANGEMENT THAT INTERBREED WHEN MATURE.

(J) "TAKE" MEANS TO HARASS, HARM, PURSUE, HUNT, SHOOT, WOUND, KILL, TRAP, CAPTURE, OR COLLECT, OR TO ATTEMPT TO ENGAGE IN ANY SUCH CONDUCT.

(K) "THREATENED SPECIES" MEANS ANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE OR PLANTS WHICH APPEARS LIKELY, WITHIN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, TO BECOME ENDANGERED INCLUDING ANY SPECIES OF WILDLIFE OR PLANT DETERMINED TO BE A "THREATENED SPECIES" PURSUANT TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.

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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT: (1) IT IS THE POLICY OF THIS STATE TO CONSERVE SPECIES OF WILDLIFE FOR HUMAN ENJOYMENT, FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES, AND TO INSURE THEIR PERPETUATION AS VIABLE COMPONENTS OF THEIR ECOSYSTEMS; (2) SPECIES OF WILDLIFE AND PLANTS NORMALLY OCCURRING WITHIN THE STATE WHICH MAY BE FOUND TO BE THREATENED OR ENDANGERED WITHIN THE STATE SHOULD BE ACCORDED THE PROTECTION NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE THEIR NUMBERS; (3) THE STATE SHOULD ASSIST IN THE PROTECTION OF SPECIES OF WILDLIFE AND PLANTS WHICH ARE DETERMINED TO BE "THREATENED" OR "ENDANGERED" ELSEWHERE PURSUANT TO THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT OF 1973, 87 STAT. 884, BY PROHIBITING THE TAKING, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, EXPORTATION, PROCESSING, SALE, OFFER FOR SALE, OR SHIPMENT WITHIN THIS STATE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BY CAREFULLY REGULATING THESE ACTIVITIES WITH REGARD TO THE THREATENED SPECIES. EXCEPTIONS TO THESE PROHIBITIONS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE CONSERVATION OF THESE SPECIES, MAY BE PERMITTED AS SET FORTH IN THIS SUBTITLE.

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