Wetlands and Riparian Areas

Riparian Areas
An area recognized by the presence of linear bands of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation along a waterway where plant communities and soil moisture differ from surrounding upland vegetation and soils

Wetlands
Lands transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water with one or more of the following attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (wetland plants); (2) the substrate is predominantly un-drained hydric soil; and/or (3) the substrate is non-soil and is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year (USFWS 1993).