

Watershed Vocabulary Words

[best management practices](#) (BMP) – Systems, activities and structures that human beings can construct or practice to prevent nonpoint source pollution

[condensation](#)—noun—the process by which water vapor changes to a liquid

[conservation](#)—noun—the act of saving or protecting any type of matter from loss or waste; preservation

[erosion](#) -noun—the process by which the surface of the earth is worn away by the action of water, glaciers, winds, waves, etc

[evaporation](#)—noun— the process by which water becomes vapor or gas

[Filter](#)—noun— a material that is used to remove impurities or suspended particles from a mixture. In nature, it is a layer of soil, sand and porous rock material through which the water percolates

[ground water](#)—noun— water that collects in rock layers below the surface of the ground

[nonpoint source pollution](#)—noun—a source of water pollution that comes from many diffuse sources, such as excess fertilizers or herbicides from agricultural or residential areas; and oil, grease and other chemicals from urban run-off and energy production

[point source pollution](#)—noun—any specific point (pipe, ditch, channel, tunnel, well, vessel etc.) from which pollution is discharged

[pollutant](#)—noun—a substance that is dissolved or placed in the environment, such as pesticides, paints, oil, harmful bacteria etc. that renders the air, soil, water or other natural resource unsuitable for a specific purpose

[precipitation](#)— a process whereby the products of condensation (water, snow, hail) in the atmosphere fall to the ground

[runoff](#) - precipitation that did not get (infiltrated) absorbed into the soil, or did not evaporate, and therefore made its way from the ground surface into places that water collect. Runoff causes erosion, and also carry chemicals and substances on the ground surface along to the rivers where the water ends up.

[tributary](#)—noun—a stream which runs into another body of water

[watershed](#)—noun—the geographic area of land where all the water drains towards the same destination

[water cycle](#)—noun—a process whereby the earth's water is moved by the energy from the sun and the force of gravity through a cycle of evaporation, condensation, precipitation and accumulation

[well](#)--noun—hole in the ground from which ground water may be pumped to the surface