
APPENDIX A. GLOSSARY

Acidity	The capacity of water to neutralize a basic solution.
Agricultural Preservation Areas	Lands enrolled in a statewide program that has been established to promote the conservation and preservation of agricultural lands and the agricultural community.
Air Pollutant	Any substance in the air that causes damage to life, ecosystems, or property.
Airsheds	Geographic areas responsible for emitting 75 percent of the air pollution reaching a body of water.
All Terrain Vehicle	A small, open motor vehicle having one seat and three or more wheels fitted with large tires. It is designed chiefly for recreational use over roadless, rugged terrain.
Atmospheric Deposition	The process of airborne pollutants falling to the ground.
Basicity	The extent to which a substance is a base, which is defined as having a pH over seven.
Bedrock	The solid rock that underlies the soil and other unconsolidated material, or that is exposed at the surface.
Best Management Practices	Refer to the most environmentally appropriate techniques for agriculture, forestry, mining, development, urban stormwater management, and other practices that are potential threats to natural resources.
Biological Diversity	The number and variety of organisms found within a specific geographic region, or a particular habitat; the variability among living organisms on the earth, including the variability within and between species and within and between ecosystems.
Biological Diversity Area	An area of land recognized as supporting populations of state, nationally, or globally significant species or natural communities, high-quality examples of natural communities or ecosystems, or natural exceptional native diversity.
Canal	A manmade waterway that is usually used to connect existing bodies of water.
Carbon Monoxide	A colorless, odorless, poisonous gas that results from the incomplete burning of carbon fuels.
Comprehensive Plans	A general policy guide for the physical development of a municipality, taking into account many factors, including locations, character, and timing of future development.

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Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation	A farm where large quantities of livestock or poultry are housed inside buildings or a confined area and all units of production, including feed, wastes, and dead animals are concentrated in one area.
Conservation	The maintenance of environmental quality and physical, biological, and/or cultural resources. Ecosystem management within given social and economic constraints; producing goods and services for humans without depleting natural ecosystem diversity, and acknowledging the natural character of biological systems.
Conservation Lands	Public or private lands with management plans that include the protection of natural areas as a primary objective.
Dedicated Area	An area of land recognized because of an owner's specific intention to protect it, which could result in the improving to become either a biological diversity area in the future or an even better high-quality area within an already designated biological diversity area.
Degradation	A degeneration to a poorer quality, condition, or state.
Direct Deposition	Occurs when pollutants enter a waterway by falling directly into it.
Drainage Pattern	The arrangement of streams in a landscape in response to local topography and subsurface geology.
Easement	A deed restriction that landowners may voluntarily place on their property to protect its future uses.
Ecoregion	A geographical unit based on associations of those biotic and environmental factors that directly affect or indirectly express energy, moisture, and nutrients regulating the structure and function of ecosystems.
Ecosystems	An area and its living and non-living components.
Environmental Education	A learning process that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment and associated challenges, develops skills and expertise to address these challenges, and fosters attitudes, motivation, and commitment to make informed decisions and take responsible actions.
Erosion	The processes by which solids are displaced from the earth's surface, including weathering, dissolution, abrasion, corrosion, and transportation.
Factory Farms	Larger, corporate-based farms that emphasize high volume and profit.
Family Farms	Smaller farms that have been in operation for several generations.
Floodplain	The level land along the course of a river or stream formed by the deposition of sediment during periodic floods.

Forest Management	The art and science of treating a forest to promote a desired outcome.
Geology	Geology is the science that deals with the study of the earth and its history, and is the name of the natural features of our plant.
Ground-Level Ozone	A harmful secondary pollutant formed in the atmosphere when nitrogen oxide (NO _x) combines and reacts with volatile organic compounds in the presence of sunlight and warm temperatures.
Groundwater	Water beneath the earth's surface; found in pore spaces in rock material. Supplies wells and springs as a source of drinking water for many; also contributes to surface water.
High-Grading	Involves cutting only the biggest, most profitable trees in a stand; considered a non-sustainable practice.
Hydric Soils	Soils that are adequately moist in the upper section to cultivate anaerobic conditions during the growing season.
Hydrologic Unit Code	A system for organizing the watersheds of the United States that divides and subdivides the watershed into successively smaller hydrologic units and is then assigned an identifying number.
Hydrology	The study of movement of water on the earth; includes surface water and groundwater.
Indirect Deposition	Occurs when a pollutant enters a waterway by falling onto land and being washed into waterbodies as runoff.
Industrial Agriculture	Larger, corporate-based farms that emphasize high volume and profit.
Invasive species	Environmentally noxious weeds that grow aggressively, spread easily, and displace other plants.
Karst	An area of limestone marked by irregularities such as sinkholes, fissures, caves, and underground streams, which are created by erosion.
Landscape Conservation Area	A larger area of land that contains minimal human disturbance and allows ecosystems to function on a landscape level.
Lichens	A symbiosis between a fungal and algal life form that usually grows on trees or rocks.
Major Employers	Companies having a minimum of 200 employees.
Management Recommendations	Non-regulatory suggestions to improve the quality of life.

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Methylmercury	A neurotoxin formed by the transformation of mercury by certain microorganisms; it is highly toxic and easily accumulates in fish, shellfish and animals that eat fish.
Natural Heritage Inventories	A method of assessing areas of important plants, animals, and ecological communities.
Natural Resources	A naturally-occurring material with economic value.
Non-Point Source	Pollutants that have no readily visible source and often require detailed analysis and research to discern the source.
Ozone	A colorless, odorless gas that forms in the atmosphere.
Ozone Layer	A colorless, odorless gas located in the upper atmospheric layer that filters the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
Particular Matter	Tiny drops of liquid or small particles of dust, metal, or other materials that float in the air.
Physiographic Provinces	A region with a particular type of landscape and geology.
Point Source	Pollutants that can be easily traced to their source.
Precipitation	Any form of water that falls from the sky, including, rain, snow, sleet, fog, and hail.
Preservation	The act or process of keeping something safe from harm or injury; the act of maintaining or reserving.
Prime Agricultural Soils	Soils that are extremely well suited for agricultural uses and meet certain physical, chemical, and slope characteristics.
Rain Shadow	An area behind a mountain that is dry due to the effect of clouds losing moisture.
Restoration	Returning to its original state or condition.
Riparian Areas	Areas of protective vegetation next to a body of water that serve as a barrier against polluted runoff and provide habitat corridors for wildlife.
Runoff	Rainfall or snowmelt not absorbed by soil that flows over the surface of the ground to a receiving waterway.
Secondary Pollutant	A new air pollutant formed when primary pollutants react in the atmosphere.
Sedimentary Rock	Rocks formed by the deposition of sediment.
Sedimentation	The deposit of particles moved by erosion.

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Shale Barren	A community with unique characteristics, including exposed south-facing terraces of Devonian shale and dry, sunny conditions throughout most of the year.
Silviculture	The art and science of controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests and woodlands.
Smart Growth Practices	A current movement that focuses on redevelopment of established urban areas and other ways to reduce sprawl pressures on undeveloped countrysides.
Soil Associations	A classification of soil types that comprise two to three major soil types and a few minor soil types.
Stormwater	Water that runs off the land into surface waters during and immediately following periods of precipitation.
Stormwater Management Plan	Planning for surface runoff into streams and river systems during rain and/or snowmelt events.
Streambed	The channel base of a stream or river or creek; it serves as an interchange between groundwater and surface water.
Subsidence	The downward movement of surface material involving little or no horizontal movement.
Sustainable	The ability to provide for the needs of the world's current population without damaging the ability of future generations to provide for themselves. When a process is sustainable, it can be carried out repeatedly without negative environmental effects or impossibly high costs to anyone involved.
Symbiosis	An alliance between two or more species that benefits each member.
Synthetic Processes	Human-controlled processes, such as burning fossil fuels.
Temperate Continental Climate	A climate without extremes of temperatures or precipitation.
Topography	Describes landscape features of an area.
Total Maximum Daily Load	A limit for pollutant load placed on a waterway by PA DEP. TMDLs are determined for a waterway based on how much pollutant it is determined that the waterway can assimilate and still meet its designated use criteria. TMDLs will be used to regulate the percentage of total pollutant load that each source in a watershed can contribute.
Trellis Drainage Pattern	A pattern of drainage where water runs off ridges and meets the valleys at right angles.

Unemployment Rate	The percentage of people of the total labor force that are actively seeking a job but cannot find employment.
Value Added	The additional value added to a product at a stage of production.
Water Gap	An opening or notch which occurs when a section of a ridge has a weaker geological structure and a stream essentially cuts through a ridge to end up on the other side.
Water Quality Trading	A program which allows facilities with higher pollution control costs to purchase the right to pollute from facilities that have reduced their pollution output below their required limits.
Watershed	The area of land that drains to a particular point along a stream. Each stream has its own watershed. Topography is the key element affecting this area of land. The boundary of a watershed is defined by the highest elevations surrounding the stream. A drop of water falling outside of the boundary will drain to another watershed.
Wetland	An area that is inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
Wildland Areas	Limited areas of land or water which have retained their wilderness character, although not necessarily completely undisturbed, or have rare or vanishing species of plant or animal life or similar features of interest worthy of preservation for use of present and future residents.
Wildlife Management Areas	Areas dedicated to wildlife management activities and low-intensity, wildlife-related recreation, including hunting and wildlife observation.
Zoning	A legal mechanism by which government bodies, for the sake of protecting public health, safety, morals, and general welfare, can limit a landowner's right to use privately owned land by dividing land into districts and creating land-use regulations.