
APPENDIX A. GLOSSARY

Abandoned Mine Drainage	A polluted groundwater discharge that emanates from former underground or surface mines.
Acidity	The level of hydrogen ion concentration in a solution. Acidity is measured on the pH scale. The pH scale is a logarithmic scale. The majority of readings go from 1 (very high acidity) to 14 (very high alkalinity).
Aerobic	Presence of oxygen.
Agricultural Security Areas	Lands enrolled in a statewide program that has been established to promote the conservation and preservation of agricultural lands and the agricultural community.
Airsheds	Geographic areas associated with prevailing air movement. Prevailing winds are responsible for emitting 75 percent of the air pollution reaching a body of water.
Alkalinity	Alkalinity is the capacity of solutes in an aqueous system to neutralize acid.
All Terrain Vehicle	Any motorized vehicle capable of cross-country travel on land, water, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.
Anaerobic	Non-oxygenated.
Anthrancnose	A group of fungi that can infect a variety of deciduous and evergreen trees.
Atmospheric Deposition	The process of airborne pollutants falling to the ground.
Base Flow	Flow considered to come from groundwater.
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.
Biodiversity	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 Areas	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.

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Brownfield	A piece of industrial or commercial property that is abandoned or under used and often environmentally contaminated, especially one considered as a potential site for redevelopment.
Carbon Monoxide	A poisonous compound that results from the incomplete burning of fuels, such as motor vehicle exhaust, industrial processes, and wood stoves.
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.
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 resources; resources include physical, biological, or cultural. Ecosystem management with given social and economic constraints; producing goods and services for humans without depleting natural ecosystem diversity, and acknowledging the natural dynamic character of biological systems.
Continental Divide	A divide separating river systems that flow to opposite sides of a continent.
Continental Temperate Climate	Experiences cold winters and warm summers.
Dedicated Area	An area of land recognized because of an owner's specific intention to protect it, which could result in the site improving to either become a biological diversity area in the future or to become an even better high quality area with an already designated biological diversity area.
Dendritic	A pattern of drainage that follows a branching form.
Direct Deposition	Occurs when pollutants enter a waterway by falling directly into it.
Dredging	The removal, displacement, and disposal of unconsolidated earth materials, such as sand, silt, gravel, or other submerged materials from the bottom of waterbodies, ditches, or natural wetlands.
Dry Deposition	Gases and particles that fall to the earth.
Early-successional Habitats	Habitats in the intermediate stage between forest and grassland, which develop as a forest recovers from recent logging activity.

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Easement	A deed restriction that landowners voluntarily place on their property to protect its future uses.
Ecoregion	An area of land or water that contains a geographic assemblage of natural communities that share environmental conditions, ecological dynamics, and species that interact ecologically to enhance their longevity.
Ecosystems	Groups of plants and animals that live in association with each other and specific environmental conditions.
Elevation	The altitude of a place above sea level or ground level.
Endangered	Plant species which are in danger of extinction throughout most of their natural range.
Environmental Education	A learning process that increases knowledge and awareness of the environment and associated challenges.
Envirothon	An environmental competition among high school students.
Ephemeral Stream	A water conveyance which lacks substrates associated with flowing waters and flows only in direct response to precipitation, which is always above the local water table.
Erosion	Natural process of removing soil from the land by wind or water.
Floodplains	Areas of land adjacent to streams onto which water spills when the water level in the stream rises.
Fluvial	Relating to, or inhabiting a river system.
Geology	The science that deals with the study of the earth and its history, and is the name of the natural features of our planet.
Geomorphic	Pertaining to the form of the earth or the forms of its surface.
Ground-level Ozone	A secondary pollutant located in the lower atmospheric layer.
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 and contributes to surface water.
Headwaters	Upper tributaries of a river or stream.

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High-grading	A controversial forestry practice that involves harvesting all the best quality timber and leaving weaker, diseased trees behind to regrow a forest.
Hydric Soils	Soils formed under water-logged, anaerobic conditions.
Hydrologic Code	A system for organizing watershed 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.
Hydrophytes	Plants that grow in water or very moist grounds
Indirect Deposition	Falling onto land and being washed into waterbodies as runoff
Intermittent Stream	A body of water flowing in a channel or bed composed of substrate primarily associated with flowing water, which during periods of the year is below the local water table and may dry up. It obtains its flow from both surface and groundwater discharges.
Invasive Species	A plant, animal, or other organism introduced to an ecological system that causes economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.
Landscape Conservation Areas	A larger area of land that contains minimal human disturbance and allows ecosystems to function on a landscape level.
Maritime Temperate Climate	Influenced by maritime airflow from the oceans, and is characterized by cool summers and mild winters.
Mass Wasting	Downhill movements of soil and rock fragments induced by gravity.
Methylmercury	A highly toxic form of mercury that builds up in fish, shellfish, and animals that eat fish.
Nonpoint Source Pollution	Pollution that enters a waterbody through an undefined source, usually in the form of runoff from places such as agricultural fields. Logging operations, lawns, and city streets.
Ozone	Colorless, odorless gas that forms in the atmosphere.
Ozone Layer	Located in the upper atmospheric layer it filters the sun's harmful ultraviolet rays.
Particulate Matter	Mixture of particulates

Particulates	Tiny drops of liquid or small particles of dust, metal, or other materials that float in the air.
Perennial Stream	A body of water constantly flowing in a channel or bed composed primarily of substrates association with flowing water and is capable, in the absence of pollution or other manmade stream disturbances, of supporting a benthic macroinvertebrate community composed of two or more recognizable taxonomic groups of organisms.
pH	The symbol for the logarithm of the reciprocal of hydrogen ion concentration in gram atoms per liter, used to express the acidity or alkalinity of a solution on a scale of 0 to 14, where less than 7 represents acidity, 7 neutrality, and more than 7 alkalinity.
Physiographic Provinces	A region with a particular type of landscape and geology.
Point Source Pollution	Discharges that enter a stream or lake directly via a pipe, culvert, container, or other means.
Pollutant	Any substance that causes damage to life, ecosystems, or property.
Precipitation	Any form of water that falls from the sky, including rain, snow, sleet, fog, and hail.
Prime Agricultural Soils	Soils that meet certain physical, chemical, and slope characteristics based upon a predetermined set of criteria.
Rare	Plant species, which are uncommon.
Remediation	Treatment methods used to minimize or remove pollution from a contaminated area.
Riparian Zones or Riparian Buffers	Vegetated areas along streams, rivers, and lakes that filter runoff and provide a transition between water and land.
Seasonal Pools	Temporary wetlands that form in topographic depressions that have no outlet or source other than rainwater.
Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rate	A statistical technique utilized to determine whether employment changes from month to month is due to normal seasonal patterns or changing economic conditions.
Secondary Pollutant	A pollutant that is formed in the atmosphere instead of being emitted from a specific source.
Sedimentation	Process by which the bottom of the stream becomes covered with eroded material from streambanks and land.

Soil	The unconsolidated mineral or organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants.
Sprawl	The movement of people from cities and towns into suburbs and rural landscapes.
Stormwater	Water that runs off the land into surface waters during and immediately following periods of precipitation.
Stream Morphology	The form or structure of streams.
Streambed	The channel base of a stream, river, or creek; it serves as an interchange between groundwater and surface water.
Subdivision Regulations	An important tool in controlling growth, protecting natural resources and maintaining community character by authorizing a planning commission or review board to review and approve the division of a parcel of land into two or more smaller parcels, based upon standards and criteria that are set for the community.
Surface Water	Water found about the land surface in rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, wetlands, and seeps.
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 over and over without negative environmental effects or impossibly high costs to anyone involved.
Swamp	A forested wetland that is not directly part of a floodplain that may be directly affected by changes in groundwater levels.
Temperate Climates	climates without extremes of temperature or precipitation.
Threatened	Plant species which may become endangered throughout most or all of their natural range.
Topography	Describes landscape features of an area.
Total Maximum Daily Load	An analysis of the maximum level of pollutants that can enter a waterbody while still meeting water quality standards.
Undulating	To move with a sinuous or wavelike motion; display a smooth rising-and-falling or side-to-side alternation of movement

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Unemployment Rate	The percentage of people of the total labor force that are actively seeking a job but cannot find employment.
Vernal Pools	Isolated ponds that are created from rainwater in the spring.
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.
Wet Deposition	Particles that fall to the earth in precipitation including rain, fog, and snow.
Wetlands	Areas of land that have specific hydrological and natural features as a result of being covered in water during all or part of the year.
Zoning	A legal mechanism by which governmental bodies, for the sake of protecting public health, safety, morals, and the general welfare, can limit a landowner's right to use privately owned land.
Zoning Ordinance	Divide the land within a governing body's area into districts and create regulations that apply generally to the governing body as a whole, as well as specifically to individual districts.