

Glossary

Adaptation	changes an organism makes to adjust to a different or changing environment.
Anadromous	fish that migrate from saltwater to fresh water for spawning.
Aspect	a position facing or fronting a particular direction.
Aquatic	organisms that live in or frequent water.
Best Management Practices	methods adopted by resource users designed to mitigate harm to the environment that might result from their activities.
Benthic	pertaining to the bottom of a body of water.
Biome	a large geographic area with somewhat uniform climatic conditions; a complex of communities characterized by a distinctive type of vegetation and maintained under the climatic conditions of the region.
Canopy	the layer of branches and leaves formed by forest trees and shrubs.
Catadromous	fish that migrate from freshwater to saltwater for spawning.
Class	a taxonomic group broader than an order or family and narrower than a phylum. Examples: mammals, fishes, birds, spiders, insects.
Collector	aquatic invertebrates that feed on fine material in water.
Cryptogam	flowerless and seedless organisms that reproduce by spores, such as fungi, algae, mosses, and ferns.
Dichotomous key	a key for the identification of organisms based on a series of choices between alternative characteristics.
Dissolved oxygen	oxygen dissolved in water.
Ecosystem	a system formed by the interaction of a community or organisms with their environment.
Embeddedness	the degree larger rock particles are surrounded by silt. Measured in a percentage.

- Entomologist** one who studies insects.
- Erosion** the physical removal of soil or soil particles by a transport agent such as moving water, wind.
- Ethnobotany** the plant lore of a race of people.
- Family** a taxonomic group broader than a genus or species, and narrower than an order or class.
- Fauna** pertaining to animals.
- Forb** any herbaceous plant other than a grass.
- Geomorphology** the study of the forms, characteristics, and processes related to the land forms on earth.
- Glide** an area in a stream with gently moving water, usually over a uniform river or stream bottom. Usual a transition zone between pools and riffles.
- Gradient** degree of slope, or steepness of a geographic feature.
- Herb** a plant that has a fleshy stem, as distinguished from the woody tissue of shrubs and trees, and that generally dies back at the end of each growing season. Includes the plant groups forbs and grasses.
- Hydrologic cycle** the continuous circulation of water in systems throughout the planet, involving condensation, precipitation, runoff, evaporation and transpiration.
- Hyporheic zone** the volume of saturated sediment beneath and beside streams and rivers, where ground water and surface water mix.
- Indicator species** an organism whose prominent presence in an environment serves as a marker for that particular ecosystem.
- Instar** the stage of an insect between successive molts.
- Intermittent** a stream that does not flow year-round.
- Issue** a point of debate, discussion, or dispute.
- Kingdom** one of five primary divisions into which natural objects are classified, eg. plant, animal, fungus, etc.

Lateral line	a series of pores through scales along the sides of fishes; the pores lead to sensory organs beneath the scales.
Loam	fertile and humus-rich soil consisting of clay, silt and sand.
Macroinvertebrate	organisms that lack an internal skeleton and are large enough to be seen with the naked eye.
Metamorphosis	the process by which larval animals transform to adults.
Mitigate	to lessen the effects of potentially harmful activities.
Nephelometer	an instrument that measures the turbidity of water by determining the amount of light passing through.
Non point source pollution	pollution deriving from many unidentified sources.
Nymph	the young of an insect with incomplete metamorphosis.
Order	a taxonomic group broader than a family, genus or species and narrower than a class.
Parts per million	units per equivalent million units, equal to milligrams per liter.
Percolation	the process of filtering or trickling through a porous substance.
pH	a measure that indicates the relative acidity or alkalinity of a substance; the scale ranges from 0 (most acid) to 14 (most basic), with a pH of 7 being neutral.
Phylum	a major taxonomic unit broader than a class and order and narrower than a kingdom comprising of organisms sharing a fundamental pattern of organization and presumably a common descent.
Pocket pool	small area of relatively still water behind boulders or other obstructions.
Point source pollution	deriving from one source.
Pool	an area in a stream that is generally deeper than the surrounding area with slower water moving through it. Sometimes there is an obstruction creating it; usually has scoured out areas.
Pool tail-crest	the point where water from a pool breaks into a riffle or plunges to a pool below.

Predator	aquatic invertebrates that feed on other macroinvertebrates.
Pyloric caeca	organ of a fish, also called blind sacs, function includes digestion and absorption.
Resources	matter and energy available for use by organisms.
Riffle	an area in a stream that may be shallow or deep with swift water flowing over different sized substrate.
Riparian	located or living along or near a stream, river or body of water.
Runoff	water that drains or flows off the surface of the land.
Scraper	aquatic invertebrates that feed by scraping the surfaces of rocks, primarily harvesting algae.
Sediment	the solid matter that settles to the bottom of a liquid.
Shredder	aquatic invertebrates that feed on the leaves or wood that fall into a stream.
Side channel	a channel fed by the mainstem river and nearly parallel to it.
Silt	very fine particles of earth, sand, and clay that may be transported by water and deposited as sediment.
Species	a category of taxonomic classification consisting of related organisms capable of interbreeding.
Stream reach	a section of river or creek.
Substrate	inorganic material that forms the bottom of a stream.
Succession	the gradual replacement of one community by another.
Swim bladder	organ of a fish that is responsible for a fish's buoyancy.
Taxonomy	the scientific naming and classifying of organisms along the Linnaean system (species, genus, etc.) which uses Latin and Latinized names.
Thorax	the body region behind the head of an insect, which bears legs and wings.
Topographic map	a map that shows roads, towns, water, vegetation, contour lines and other selected features.

Topography detailing on a map the relative position of man made or natural features in a way that shows elevation.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) total amount of undissolved material carried by water.

Transect a sample area of vegetation usually in the form of a narrow continuous strip used for the tabulation of data.

Turbidity degree to which light penetration is blocked because water is muddy or cloudy.

Velocity speed; quickness of motion.

Watershed a watershed is the land that water flows across or under on its way to a stream, river, lake, or ocean; all of the land area with a common drainage.