

WATERSHED HEALTH A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



Below are some basic concepts that Water First teaches. It is important for everyone to know how everything is connected.

A watershed is an area of land whose streams and rivers all drain into a single large body of water, such as a large river, a lake or an ocean. Every watershed has tributaries, which are different landforms like hills and valleys that shape rivers and dictate the direction that water flows. The whole earth is divided into various watersheds.

Sometimes, pollution can end up in a watershed. Imagine pollution is being added to your watershed. This could be dirt from soil erosion or a chemical spill at a factory. After it rains, where does the pollution go? It ends up in a larger body of water such as a river, lake or ocean.

Wetlands and forests help to filter some pollution out of the water before it reaches the main water body. However, these natural filters are often compromised due to human actions.

Monitoring the quality of the water in our watersheds is very important. There are many different things in water to monitor. Below are a few examples:



pH levels: how acidic or alkaline the water is

alkalinity: how well water can resist a change in pH

hardness: how many minerals like calcium are in the water

conductivity: how much electricity water can carry

total dissolved solids: how many particles are in the water

parts per million (ppm): a unit of measurement for TDS and hardness

turbidity: a visual test to describe total dissolved solids

using a scale of clear to murky looking water



WATERSHED HEALTH WORD SEARCH



Find all of the watershed health related words listed below. They will be found vertical, horizontal and diagonal.

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acidic alkaline alkalinity calcium conductivity erosion filter land

minerals
parts per million
pH
pollution

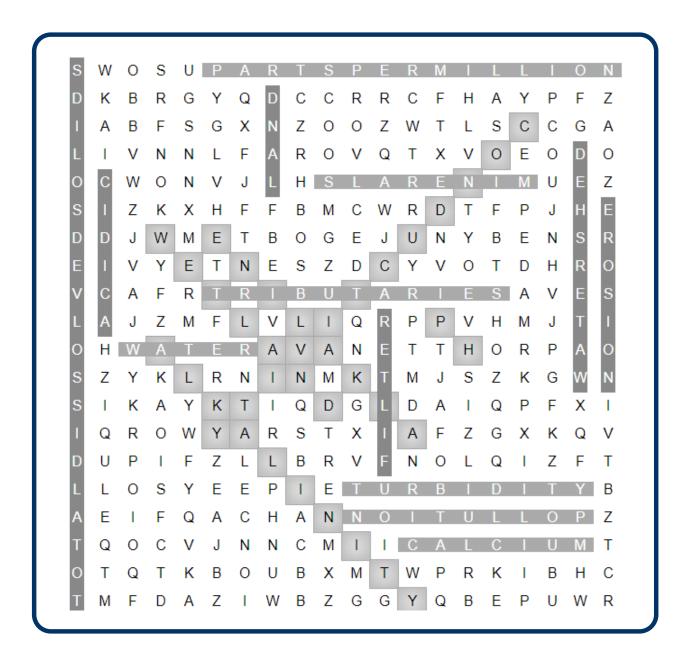
total dissolved solids turbidity tributaries water wetland



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