

GLOSSARY

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- Acre - Foot:** The volume of water that will cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot.
- Backfill:** The material used to refill a ditch or other excavation, or the process of doing so.
- Best Management Practices (BMP):** A collection of structural practices and vegetative measures which, when properly designed, installed and maintained, will provide effective erosion and sedimentation control for all rainfall events up to and including a 25-year, 24-hour rainfall event.
- Borrow Area:** A source of earth fill material used in the construction of embankments or other earth fill structures.
- Channel:** A natural stream that conveys water; a ditch or channel excavated for the flow of water.
- Critical Area:** A severely eroded sediment producing area that requires special management to establish and maintain vegetation to stabilize soil conditions.
- Cut-and-Fill:** Process of earth moving by excavating part of an area and using the excavated material for adjacent embankments or fill areas.
- CWA:** Clean Water Act
- Detention Dam:** A dam constructed for the purpose of temporary storage of streamflow or surface runoff and for releasing the stored water at controlled rates.
- Diversion:** A channel with or without a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across the top or bottom of a slope for the purpose of intercepting surface runoff.
- Diversion Dam:** A barrier built to divert part or all of the water from a stream into a different course.
- Drop-Inlet Spillway:** An overfall in which the water drops through a vertical riser connected to a discharge conduit.
- EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency
- Erosion:** (1)The wearing away of the land surface by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents, including such processes as gravitational creep. (2)Detachment and movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity.
- Headwater:** (1)The source of stream. (2)The water upstream from a structure or point on a stream.
- In-Stream Treatment** - the use of jurisdictional waters of the United States to treat, abate, reduce, separate and/or remove pollutants or pollution, in order to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act, such that the waters will not meet, or will likely not meet, applicable water quality standards.
- LIA:** Local Issuing Authority
- Loose Rock Dam:** A dam built of rock without the use of mortar, a rubble dam. See Rock-Fill Dam.
- Low Impact Development:** development based on design techniques and strategies aimed at mimicking the pre-development site hydrology such as the approach described in, "Low-Impact Development Design Strategies, An Integrated Design Approach," by Prince George's County, Maryland, January 2000.
- MS4 or MS4s:** Municipal separate storm water system(s)
- Mulch:** A natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other materials, such as sand or paper, on the soil surface.
- NEPA:** National Environmental Policy Act
- NPDES:** National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
- Open Drain:** Natural watercourse or constructed open channel that conveys drainage water.
- Outlet Channel:** A waterway constructed or altered primarily to carry water from man-made structures, such as terraces, tile lines, and diversions.
- Pipe Drop:** A circular conduit used to convey water down steep grades.
- Rill:** A small intermittent watercourse with steep sides, usually only a few inches deep and thus no obstacle to tillage operations.
- Rip - Rap:** Broken rock, cobbles, or boulders placed on earth surfaces, such as the face of a dam or the bank of a stream for protection against the action of water (waves); also applied to brush or pole mattresses, or brush and stone, or other similar materials used for soil erosion control.
- Section 404 Permit** - the permit issued, in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the discharge of dredged or fill material into navigable waters.



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River Basin: The sum of all the smaller sub-watersheds that make up the entire drainage that feeds to the main stem of the River.

Rock - Fill Dam: A dam composed of loose rock usually dumped in place, often with the upstream part constructed of handplaced or derrick-placed rock and faced with rolled earth or with an impervious surface of concrete, timber, or steel.

Runoff: (hydraulics) - That portion of the precipitation on a drainage area that is discharged from the area in stream channels. Types include runoff, groundwater runoff, or seepage
Sediment: Solid material, both mineral and organic, that is in suspension, is being transported, or has been moved from its site of origin by air, water, gravity, or ice, as a product of erosion.

Sediment Basin: A depression formed from the construction of a barrier or dam built at a suitable location to retain sediment and debris.

Sediment Discharge/Sediment Load: The quantity of sediment, measured in dry weight or by volume, transported through a stream cross-section in a given time. Sediment discharge consists of both suspended load and bedload.

Sediment Pool: The reservoir space allotted to the accumulation of submerged sediment during the life of the structure.

Sheet Flow: Water, usually storm runoff, flowing in a thin layer over the ground surface; also called overland flow.

Silt: (1)A soil separate consisting of particles between 0.05 and 0.002 millimeter in equivalent diameter.
(2)A soil textural class.

Slope: The degree of deviation of a surface from horizontal, measured in a numerical ratio, percent, or degrees. expressed as a ratio or percentage, the first number is the vertical distance (rise) and the second is the horizontal distance (run), as 2:1 or 200 percent. Expressed in degrees, it is the angle of the slope from the horizontal plane with a 90° slope being vertical (maximum) and 45° being a 1:1 slope.

Slope Characteristics: Slopes may be characterized as concave (decrease in steepness in lower portion), uniform, or convex (increase in steepness at base). Erosion is strongly affected by shape, ranked in order of increasing erodibility from concave to uniform to convex.

Spillway: An open or closed channel, or both, used to convey excess water from a reservoir. It may contain gates, either manually or automatically controlled, to regulate the discharge of excess water.

Spoil: Soil or rock material excavated from a canal, ditch, basin, or similar construction.

Stabilization: The process of establishing an enduring soil cover of vegetation and/or mulch or other ground cover in combination with installing temporary or permanent structures for the purpose of reducing to a minimum the transport of sediment by wind, water, ice or gravity.

Stabilized Grade: The slope of a channel at which neither erosion nor deposition occurs.

Storm Frequency: an expression or measure of how often a hydrologic event of a given size or magnitude should on an average occur, based on a reasonable sample.

Storm Water Treatment Works - any method, devices, or systems for preventing, abating, reducing, storing, treating, separating or disposing of storm water runoff.

Streambanks: The usual boundaries, not the flood boundaries, of a stream channel. Right and left banks are named facing downstream.

Stream Load: Quantity of solid and dissolved material carried by a stream.

Structural Practices: Soil and water conservation measures, other than vegetation, utilizing the mechanical properties of matter for the purpose of either changing the surface of the land or storing, regulating, or disposing of runoff to prevent excessive sediment loss. Including but not limited to riprap, sediment basins, dikes, level spreaders, waterways or outlets, diversions, grade stabilization structures, sediment traps, land grading, etc.

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Swale: A depression in a stretch of otherwise flat land.

TMDL: Total maximum Daily Load

Topsoil: Earthy material used as top-dressing for house lots, grounds for large buildings, gardens, road cuts, or similar areas. It has favorable characteristics for production of desired kinds of vegetation or can be made favorable.

Trash Rack: A structural device used to prevent debris from entering a spillway or other hydraulic structure
Watershed: The area of land that drains to a particular point on a stream. Depending on where we live, we cross quite a few brooks, creeks, runs, branches, gulches, arroyos, bayous, ditches, or channels as we drive to work each day. Each stream we cross is part of a massive network of perhaps three million streams that drain to the rivers and, ultimately, to the sea. Each stream has its own watershed that circumscribes all of the land that drains to the point where we cross it. Collectively, these small watersheds provide critical natural services that sustain or enrich our daily lives: they supply our drinking water, critical habitat for plants and animals, areas of natural beauty, and water bodies for recreation and relaxation. Small streams are an important element of our local geography, and confer a strong sense of place to a community.

Watershed Area: All land and water within the confines of a drainage divide or a water problem area consisting in whole or in part of land needing drainage or irrigation.

Waters of the United States - as defined by 40 CFR § 122.2(a)-(g), which includes all waters used for interstate or foreign commerce, all interstate waters, all other waters which would or could affect interstate or foreign commerce, the territorial seas, and wetlands.

Wetlands - as defined by 40 CFR § 122.2

