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GLOSSARY

acre-feet	The volume of water that would cover one acre to a depth of one foot.
algae	Nonvascular aquatic plants or plantlike organisms, most of which contain chlorophyll. [<i>Alga, singular. Algal, adjective.</i>]
anoxic	Relating to or marked by a severe deficiency of oxygen.
BMPs	See <i>best management practices</i> .
BOD	Biochemical Oxygen Demand. A measure of the amount of oxygen consumed by the decomposition of biological matter or chemical reactions in the water column. Most NPDES discharge permits include a limit on the amount of BOD that may be discharged.
basin	The watershed of a major river system.
Benthic macroinvertebrates	Aquatic organisms, visible to the naked eye (macro) and lacking a backbone (invertebrate) that live in or on the bottom of rivers and streams (benthic).
benthic	A term for bottom-dwelling aquatic organisms.
best management practices	Techniques that are currently determined to be effective, practical means of preventing or reducing pollutants from point and nonpoint sources, in order to protect water quality. BMPs include, but are not limited to: structural and nonstructural controls, operation and maintenance procedures, and other practices. BMPs are typically, applied as a system of practices; rarely just one at a time.
CE-QUAL-W2	A two-dimensional, longitudinal/vertical, hydrodynamic and water quality model. The model predicts water surface elevations, velocities, temperatures, and 21 water quality parameters including nutrient/phytoplankton/dissolved oxygen interactions under anoxic conditions.
chlorophyll	A chemical constituent in plants and leaves that gives them their green color and is essential to photosynthesis.
chlorophyll <i>a</i>	A specific form of chlorophyll ($C_{55}H_{72}MgN_4O_5$) that is bluish-black. High levels of chlorophyll <i>a</i> in a waterbody, most often a pond, lake or estuary, usually indicate a large amount of algae resulting from nutrient enrichment or eutrophication.
confluence	The place where two streams flow together or join.
DO	Dissolved oxygen.
decomposition	The break up of matter into its constituent parts by a chemical process.

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degradation	The lowering of the physical, chemical or biological quality of a waterbody caused by pollution or other sources of stress.
deposition	The process by which particles (e.g., sediment, organic matter, etc.) fall out of the water.
drainage area	An alternate name for a watershed.
ecology	The scientific study of the interactions that determine the distribution and abundance of living plants and animals.
erosion	The process whereby soil is worn away by the action of water, wind, or glacial ice.
eutrophication	Physical, chemical or biological changes in a lake associated with nutrient, organic matter and silt enrichment. The corresponding excessive growth of algae can deplete dissolved oxygen and threaten certain forms of aquatic life, cause unsightly scum on the water surface and result in taste and odor problems.
GIS	Geographic Information System. A computer application used to store, view, and analyze geographical information, especially maps.
habitat degradation	Identified where there is a notable reduction in habitat diversity or change in habitat quality. This term includes sedimentation, bank erosion, channelization, lack of riparian vegetation, loss of pools or riffles, loss of woody habitat, and streambed scour.
headwaters	Small streams that converge to form a larger stream in a watershed.
HSPF	Hydrological Simulation Program-Fortran model. HSPF uses hydrology and land use data inputs to model runoff rates and concentrations of sediment and nutrients, as well as a wide variety of other substances carried in the runoff. The model was used to calibrate the nutrient and organic concentrations flowing into Lake Chatuge from the watershed.
hypolimnion	The layer of water in a thermally stratified lake that lies below the thermocline (typically on the very bottom), does not circulate, and remains perpetually cold.
impoundment	Another term for reservoir. An area created for the accumulation and storage of water.
impervious	Incapable of being penetrated by water; non-porous.
IPSI	Integrated Pollutant Source Identification. IPSI is a geographic database and set of tools designed to aid citizens and planners in implementing water quality improvement and protection projects within a watershed. The geographic database consists of information on watershed features, such as land use/land cover, stream bank erosion sites, and other suspected sources of nonpoint pollution.

loading	Refers to the amount of pollutants entering a waterbody. “Loads” of pollutants are usually expressed in terms of a weight and a time frame, such as pounds per year (lbs/yr).
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.
nonpoint source	A source of water pollution generally associated with rainfall runoff or snowmelt. The quality and rate of runoff of this type of pollution is strongly dependent on the type of land cover and land use from which the rainfall runoff flows.
pH	A measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, numerically equal to 7 for neutral solutions, increasing with increasing alkalinity and decreasing with increasing acidity. The pH scale commonly in use ranges from 0 to 14.
physiographic	Related to the physical features of the earth’s surface.
point source	A discrete discharge of pollutants as through a pipe or similar conveyance.
pollutant	A waste material that contaminates air, soil or water.
reservoir	A man-made lake used for the storage and regulation of water.
riparian zone	Vegetated corridor immediately adjacent to a stream or river.
runoff	Rainfall that does not evaporate or infiltrate the ground, but instead flows across land and into waterbodies.
sedimentation	The sinking and deposition of particles (e.g., soil, algae and dead organisms) carried by water.
Sub-watershed	A smaller watershed nested within a larger watershed.
TN	Total Nitrogen.
TP	Total Phosphorus.
TSS	Total Suspended Solids.
thermocline	The layer in a lake that sharply separates regions differing in temperature. The thermocline typically separates the upper layer which mixes (warmer) and the lower layer which does not (colder).
topography	Graphic representation of the surface features of a place or region on a map, indicating their relative positions and elevations.
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load. A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. TMDL also represents the sum of the allowable loads of a single pollutant from all contributing point and nonpoint sources (the allocation of the maximum calculation).
tributary	A stream that flows into a larger stream, a lake or other waterbody.

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watershed	The land area draining into a body of water (such as a stream, river, pond, lake, or bay). A watershed may vary in size from several acres for a small stream or pond to thousands of square miles for a major river system. The watershed of a major river system is referred to as a basin.
watershed divide or boundary	A ridge of land on either side of which water flows into a different waterbody.
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

Definitions for the Glossary were drafted with assistance from the following sources:

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