

GLOSSARY

Buffer Strips - strips or small areas of land in permanent vegetation used to trap potential pollutants from entering surface waters.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - a ten to fifteen-year cropland set-aside program.

Conservation Tillage - planting row crops while only slightly disturbing the soil. In this way, a protective layer of plant residue stays on the surface. Erosion rates decrease.

Dissolved Oxygen (DO) - oxygen dissolved in water. Low levels of DO cause foul smelling water and threaten fish survival.

Ecosystem - an ecological community together with its physical environment, considered as a unit.

Emergent Vegetation - vegetation having roots submerged and leaves and/or flowering parts above the water.

Erosion - the detachment and movement of soil, sediment or rock fragments by water, wind, ice or gravity.

Full Body Contact Waters - include those used for human recreation where immersion of the head is expected, and frequent recreation activities, which are classified as full body include: swimming, water skiing, sail boarding, and other similar activities where significant contact with water is likely to occur. Full body contact use is applicable from May through September.

Habitat - the area or type of environment in which an organism or biological population normally lives or occurs.

Headwaters - the waters from which a river rises.

Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) - pollution whose sources cannot be traced to a single point such as a municipal or industrial wastewater treatment plant discharge pipe. Nonpoint sources include eroding farmland and construction sites, urban streets, and barnyards.

Partial Body Contact Waters - include those for human recreation where immersion of the head is not frequent and contact is accidental or incidental, and therefore, less frequent. Examples are boating fishing, and canoeing. Partial body contact use is applicable year-round.

Phosphorus - a nutrient that, when reaching lakes in excess amounts, can lead to over fertile conditions and algae blooms.

Polychlorinated biphenols (PCBs) - a group of 209 compounds, PCBs have been manufactured since 1929 for such common uses as electrical insulation and heating/cooling equipment, because they resist wear and chemical breakdown. Although banned in 1979 because of their toxicity, they have been detected on air, land and water. Recent surveys found PCBs in every section of the country, even those remote from PCB manufacturers.

Priority Watersheds - a drainage area about 100,000 acres in size selected to receive Wisconsin Fund money to help pay the cost of controlling nonpoint source pollution. Because

money is limited, only watersheds where problems are critical, control is practical, and cooperation is likely are selected for funding.

Riparian - belonging or relating to the bank of a river, a pond, or a small lake.

Sediment - soil particles suspended in and carried by water as a result of erosion.

Solifluction - soil masses moving as a result of freeze-thaw activity.

Tolerable Soil Loss (“T”) - the maximum average annual rate of soil erosion for each soil type that will permit a high level of crop productivity to be sustained economically and indefinitely.

Watershed - the land area that drains into a lake or river.

Water Quality Management Area – the area within 1,000 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters that consist of a lake, pond or flowage, except that, for a navigable water that is a glacial pothole lake, the term means the area within 1,000 feet from the high water mark of the lake; the area within 300 feet from the ordinary high water mark of navigable waters that consist of a river or stream; and a site that is susceptible to groundwater contamination, or that has the potential to be a direct conduit for contamination to reach groundwater.

Wetlands - an area where water is at, near or above the land surface long enough to be capable of supporting aquatic or hydrophytic vegetation and which has soils indicative of wet conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas.

Wisconsin Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Abatement Grant Program - a state cost-share program established by the State Legislature in 1978 to help pay the costs of controlling nonpoint source pollution. Also known as the nonpoint source element of the Wisconsin Fund or the Priority Watershed Program.