

A

ACOE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
abatement	The reduction in degree or intensity of pollution.
acid	Any compound that can react with a base to form a salt; having low pH.
acid precipitation (acid rain)	Precipitation (e.g., rain, snow) that has a lower pH level than normal and is created when atmospheric water combines with sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxide emissions caused by the combustion of fossil fuels. Harmful to plant and animal life and alters soil conditions.
action level	Concentration of a contaminant in fish or wildlife that would trigger issuance of a fish or wildlife consumption advisory.
algae	Nonvascular, aquatic plants that occur both as microscopic forms suspended in water (phytoplankton) and as larger forms attached to rocks and other substrates.
alkaline	Having basic properties, condition of water or soil containing enough alkali substances (various soluble salts) to raise the pH above 7.0.
ammonia	A form of nitrogen (NH ₃) ammonia found in human and animal wastes. Ammonia is toxic to aquatic life depending on pH, temperature and ionic strength of the water.
anaerobic	Able to live and grow only where there is no air or free oxygen; conditions that exist only in the absence of air and free oxygen.
anoxia	A condition where no oxygen is found in the water, often occurs near the bottom of over enriched lakes or estuaries during summer stratification.
antidegradation	A policy which states that water quality will not be lowered below background levels unless justified by economic and social development considerations.
aquatic ecosystem	A biological community of plants and animals living in water; includes stream, river, lake, estuary and ocean ecosystems.
aquifer	An underground bed or layer of earth, gravel or porous stone that contains freshwater in sufficient amounts to yield useful quantities to wells and springs.
arsenic	A highly poisonous metal having three allotropic forms that are found in insecticides, weed killers and alloys.
artesian (flowing) well	A well drilled into an aquifer, relieving pressure and causing water to rise above the water table.
artesian pressure	The force created when pressure in an aquifer causes the water level in wells to rise above the top of the aquifer.

B

bacteria	Single-cell, microscopic organisms. Some can cause disease, and some are important in the stabilization of organic wastes.
balanced community	A community that supports an abundant and usually diverse population of forage fish, game fish and other aquatic biota (zooplankton, phytoplankton, macroinvertebrates).
basal area	Forestry term used to refer to the density of a stand of trees, expressed in square feet/acre.
bedding	A technique whereby a small ridge of surface soil is formed to provide an elevated planting or seed bed. Used frequently in wet areas to improve soil drainage and aeration for seedlings.
beneficial uses	The designated uses of a water body such as fishing, swimming, shellfish harvesting and potable water use.
benthic organisms	The organisms living in or on the bottom of a water body.
berm	A BMP consisting of a mounded area that can slow or divert runoff.
best management practice (BMP)	The most effective, practical measures to control sources of pollution. Typically classified as either nonstructural or structural.
bioaccumulation	The uptake and retention of substances by an organism from its surrounding medium and from its food. Some chemicals move through the food chain and become more concentrated in organisms at the upper end of the food chain such as predator fish, or people or birds that eat these fish.
bioassay	A test for pollutant toxicity. Fish or other organisms are exposed to varying doses of test material to determine lethal levels.
bioavailability	The degree to which substances are able to be absorbed into organic tissues such as nutrients or pollutants.
biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)	The amount of oxygen used by micro-organisms per unit volume of water at a given temperature, for a given time.
bioconcentration	The process by which an organism accumulates a substance in its tissues by ingestion or from the surrounding air, water or soil.
biodegradable	Waste that can be broken down by bacteria (microorganisms) into basic elements. Most organic wastes, such as food remains and paper are biodegradable.
biota	All living organisms that exist in an area.
bloom	A proliferation of algae and/or higher aquatic plants in a body of water, often related to pollution.

BMP	Best Management Practice
BMP Treatment Plan	The concept of integrating a series of BMP's into an effective stormwater management system.
bog	An area of soft, water-saturated ground with a spongy, acidic substrate composed mostly of sphagnum moss and peat, and in which water-tolerant shrubs, herbs and trees usually grow, sometimes the result of lake eutrophication.
borrow pit	An excavation site dug to provide material for construction such as fill materials.
brackish	A mixture of freshwater and saltwater, with salinity ranging from about 10 to 30 parts salt per 1000.
broad-base dips	A BMP typically used on forest roads that consist of a periodic reversal in the grade of a permanent access road for the purpose of intercepting and diverting surface water flow without seriously impeding vehicular traffic.
buffer strips	A BMP consisting of strips of grass or other erosion-resisting vegetation between disturbed areas and a water body.

C

canal	Constructed water body often used to connect water bodies for transportation or water diversion purposes.
carcinogens	Anything that causes cancer.
chlorination	The application of chlorine often to kill bacteria and other organisms in water.
chlorophyll	Green pigments found in plants that are necessary for photosynthesis and may be used as an indicator of algae population levels.
chlor-organic compounds	A class of chemicals containing chlorine, carbon and hydrogen. Generally refers to pesticides and herbicides that can be toxic such as PCBs, DDT and dieldrin.
chronic toxicity	Injurious or debilitating effects of long-term exposure to non-lethal toxic chemicals (i.e. reduced reproductive success).
clarity	How far sunlight penetrates into water; limited by plankton, sediment particles, water color, etc.; measured with secchi disk; and important for submerged aquatic vegetation.
class I waters	Waterbodies that are designated for use as a potable water supply.
COD	Chemical Oxygen Demand

collection site	A stream, lake, reservoir or other body of water fed by water drained from a watershed.
community	The interaction of a group of species and abiotic factors assembled in the same location.
compliance maintenance	A program that identifies actions municipal wastewater treatment facilities should take to ensure they continue to meet existing and future effluent limits.
concentration	The amount of a specific substance dissolved in a given amount (volume) of another substance.
condensation	Moisture formed when warm vapor mixes with cooler air in the atmosphere. The opposite of evaporation.
confined aquifer	A water-saturated layer of soil or rock that is bounded above and below by impermeable layers.
confined disposal facility (CDF)	A structure built for the containment and disposal of contaminated dredged material.
confining layer	A layer of clay or rock that acts as a shield to keep water from escaping from an aquifer or zone.
conservation	The protection and sensible use of our natural resources; includes actions by citizens, business, industry and agriculture.
consumer	An organism that obtains its food by eating plants or animals.
consumption advisory	A health warning issued by a public agency that recommends people limit the fish they eat from some rivers and lakes based on levels of toxic substances found in the fish.
consumptive uses	Reducing and not replenishing the supply of water or other resources through pumping, harvesting, or forestry.
contaminant	Any substance that when added to water (or another substance) reduces its quality.
contaminate	To make impure (not pure) by contact or addition of something; to pollute or soil.
conventional pollutant	Refers to suspended solids, fecal coliform bacteria, biochemical oxygen demand and pH, as opposed to toxic pollutants.
cross ditch	A BMP consisting of a shallow depression built diagonally across a road or trail for the purpose of diverting surface water off the road surface.
cross-drain culvert	A BMP consisting of a metal, wooden, plastic or concrete conduit through which ditch flow is directed underneath the road surface to the opposite side of the road.
crustaceans	A large class of animals characterized by a hard outer covering (exoskeleton) usually living in or near water; includes lobsters, crabs and shrimp.

CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
cultural eutrophication	Accelerated enrichment of surface waters from human activities, resulting in higher amounts of plant matter than would naturally grow and increasing the rate at which water bodies fill-up with organic material.
D	
dam	A constructed barrier built to hold back or control flowing water in a river or lake.
DDT	A chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide that has been banned because of its persistence in the environment.
decomposers	Organisms such as bacteria and fungi that break down dead plant and animal material.
decomposition	The breakdown of organic matter through the digestive processes of microorganisms, macroinvertebrates and scavengers changing the chemical makeup and physical appearance of materials.
dehydration	The process of losing or removing water.
DEP	Department of Environmental Protection
deposition	The process of laying down sediment or accumulating layers of material carried in suspension.
desalination	Any of numerous processes that remove the salt from saltwater.
detergent	Synthetic washing agent that helps water to remove dirt and oil. Most contain large amounts of phosphorus compounds that can kill useful bacteria and encourage algae growth in the receiving water.
detritus	Natural woody or decaying plant material that serves as a primary food source.
dike	A BMP consisting of a bank, usually of earth, built to control or confine water.
dioxin	A chlorinated organic chemical (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenso-p-dioxin) that is highly toxic.
disinfection	A chemical or physical process that kills disease causing organisms. Chlorine is often used to disinfect wastewater.
dissolved oxygen	Concentration of oxygen in the water; produced by plants during photosynthesis and necessary for animal respiration; levels consistently below 3 to 5 parts per million stress the survival of fish and many marine organisms.

ditch plugs	Materials used to partially or completely obstruct the flow of water in a ditch.
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
drainage basin	The area from which water drains off the land into a specific body of water (lake, stream).
dredging	Removal of sediment from the bottom of water bodies.
drought	A long period of time with little or no rain.

E

ecology	The relationships of living things to one another and to their environment, or the study of such relationships.
ecosystem	A natural community of animals and plants that interrelate, or depend on each other, and their physical and chemical environment.
effluent	Solid, liquid or gas wastes (byproducts) which are discharged or may be treated so that it can be used again.
effluent limits	Established limits to the amount of a pollutant that can be discharged to a receiving system that depend on the pollutant type, the water quality or the receiving waters, and the characteristics of the receiving water.
endangered species	Any plant or animal in immediate danger of becoming extinct.
environment	The sum of all external conditions affecting the life, development and survival of an organism.
environmental corridor	Environmentally sensitive areas that connect ecosystems allowing optimum function, species migration, and natural watershed, and include wetlands, shore lands, groundwater recharge areas and other systems.
Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)	The federal agency responsible for administering and enforcing the requirements of the Federal Clean Water Act and other federal environmental laws and rules often through delegation to state agencies.
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
erode	To wash or wear away.
erodible soils	Soils identified as being subject to erosion based on soil texture, composition and topography.
erosion	The process by which soil particles are detached and transported by water, wind or gravity to some down slope or down-stream deposition point. Erosion occurs naturally from weather or run-off but can be intensified by land-clearing practices.

estuary	Area where freshwater meets saltwater (bays, mouths of rivers, salt marshes, lagoons) that are important habitat for fish reproduction, crustaceans and shellfish production, migrating birds, and upland wildlife.
eutrophic	Excessively productive or enriched estuaries and lakes that generally lack diversity of species and have an over abundance of vegetative matter, low dissolved oxygen levels and high accumulation of soft bottom sediments.
eutrophication	The slow aging process of a lake filling with organic matter and becoming shallower until it dries out completely. Human activities such as agriculture and improper waste disposal add nutrients to a water body that can speed up this action.
evaporation	The process of water changing from a liquid to a gas or vapor.

F

FDACS	Florida Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services
FDEP	Florida Department of Environmental Protection
FDOT	Florida Department of Transportation
fecal coliform	A group of bacteria used to indicate the presence of other pathogens that cause disease and is used to determine if water is suitable for drinking and swimming.
fertilizers	Any substance or combination of substances used primarily as a source of plant nutrition or soil amendment.
first-magnitude spring	A spring that discharges an average of at least 64.6 million gallons of water per day.
flood	The overflow of too much water onto an area that is normally dry.
floodplain	An area of flat land along a water body that is topographically suitable to accept water during a flood.
Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program	A program implemented by county extension offices to educate the people about Florida friendly landscaping practices.
food chain	A sequence of consumers in which each uses the next as a food source.
food web	Interlocking group of food chains within an ecosystem whereby energy, in the form of food, is passed from one living thing to another; energy transfer from the sun to primary producers to primary consumers to secondary and tertiary consumers.
forested swamp	Wetlands with trees usually found along the floodplains of rivers.

freshwater marsh An area of shallow freshwater covered with saw grass, cattails, maidencane and other grasses.

G

ground water The supply of fresh water under the earth's surface that forms a natural reservoir.

ground water standards Numerical standards for substances of health or welfare concern which consist of an enforcement standard and a preventative action limit (PAL).

H

habitat The sum of environmental conditions in a specific place that is occupied by an organism, population or community.

hard surface crossings (fords) A BMP typically used on forest lands by placing rock, brick, logs and other stable materials in the bottom of stream channels to accommodate light traffic during periods of low water flow.

hazardous wastes Products that can be dangerous or harmful if not disposed of properly (insect repellents, paint products, gas or oil).

headwaters The source or starting point of a river.

heavy metals The group of metals (conductive elements) that are naturally occurring or caused by industrial waste characterized by their high atomic weight, low chemical re-activity, and ability to bioaccumulate. The metals of most concern are arsenic, cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, selenium, silver, and zinc.

herbicide A type of pesticide that is specifically designed to kill plants and can also be toxic to other organisms.

humus Decomposed organic material.

hydric soils Soils that are typically wet or hold water due to their organic composition; characterized by a dark color and associated with wetlands.

hydrocarbons Compounds found in fossil fuels that contain carbon and hydrogen and may be carcinogenic.

hydrology The scientific study of the properties, distribution and effects of water on the earth's surface, in the soil and underlying rocks and in the atmosphere.

hydrometer	Instrument used to measure water salinity based on the density and specific gravity of the water.
hydroperiod	Period of time during which soils, water bodies and sites are wet.
hypereutrophic	Refers to a lake with excessive fertility, extreme algae blooms and low dissolved oxygen; increased eutrophication.
hypersaline	Extremely salty water or condition.
hypoxia	A condition in which dissolved oxygen concentrations drop to dangerously low levels (~2 milligrams per liter as compared with a normal level of 8 to 10 milligrams per liter).
I	
impermeable	The ability of a material to prevent liquids from passing through it.
impoundment	A body of water confined by a dam, dike, floodgate or other barrier.
incinerate	To burn something until it turns to ashes.
Indigenous	Existing, growing or produced naturally in a particular region.
Infiltration basin	A BMP consisting of a depressed vegetated area that receives stormwater and allows it to soak into the ground.
inorganic	Not relating to or arising from living organisms; does not contain carbon.
interdependent	Dependence of a living being on another for survival.
intermittent stream	A stream that has a well defined channel but maintains only seasonal flow under typical climatic conditions.
intertidal zone	A relatively narrow strip of shoreline that is exposed during the lowest tides and either covered or splashed with waves during the highest high tides.
invertebrate	An animal without a backbone; includes worms, insects, mollusks, crustaceans, etc.
irrigation	The application of water to an area using a hose, sprinkler or other method.

K

K-factor An index representing the potential erodibility of a soil by water, based on soil texture.

L

landfill An engineered land site used to dispose of solid wastes in a manner that minimizes environmental hazards by spreading solid wastes in thin layers, compacting the wastes to the smallest practical volume, covering them, and controlling byproduct gases.

landscape An area where lawns, shrubs or other items have been placed for beautification or habitat improvements.

larvae The immature stage of some organisms that differs in form and appearance from adults.

leave trees Large trees which are representative of the older age classes of the stand and are considered valuable for wildlife or related ecological purposes.

levee A high earth ridge built to keep nearby land from flooding (same as dike).

littoral zone The shallow area at or near the shore of a water body or wet detention pond that has attached or rooted plants.

load The total amount of material or pollutants reaching a given water body.

low impact development (LID) A cost effective, alternative form of development that considers resource conservation, hydrological site layout, energy efficient building design, natural watershed hydrology, native landscaping, and water quality.

M

marginal use A use that cannot support a fishery or a balanced community of aquatic organisms because of natural conditions (physical, chemical, biological or human activities).

marsh Wet, soft, low-lying land that provides a niche for many plants and animals.

mass balance A study that examines all parts of the ecosystem to determine the amount of toxic or other pollutants present, their sources, and the processes by which the pollutant moves through the ecosystem.

mast-producing trees	Various species of trees considered valuable for the production of food for wildlife.
mesotrophic	Refers to a moderately fertile nutrient level of a lake between the oligotrophic and eutrophic levels.
mg/l	Milligrams per liter; a unit of measure of concentration generally equivalent to parts per million.
mitigation	The effort to lessen damages from development or other activities by modifying a project, providing alternatives, compensating for losses or replacing lost values.
modified stream	A natural watercourse that has been dredged or straightened.
mouth of a river	The place where the river empties into another body of water.
muck soils	Earth made from decaying plant materials.

N

nitrate	NO ₃ - a form of nitrogen used by algae. Excessive concentrations result in eutrophication and algal blooms.
nitrite	NO ₂ - a form of nitrogen toxic to aquatic life. Nitrites rapidly oxidize to nitrates (NO ₃).
nitrogen	An element necessary for the growth of aquatic plants; may be found in several forms including ammonia, nitrates and nitrites; may be the factor limiting phytoplankton growth in an estuary.
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
nonpoint source pollution (NPS)	Pollution initiated from diffuse and multiple nonspecific locations that are transported into surface waters by stormwater or into groundwater by rainfall leaching through the soil. NPS pollutants are usually associated with human activities and can include grease, oil, soil, household cleaners and other materials.
non-porous	Does not allow water to move through it.
NPS	Nonpoint Source Pollution
NRCS	The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.
nutrients	Elements or compounds essential to growth and development of living things; carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus.

O

OFWs, Outstanding Florida Waters

Water bodies with unique characteristics in terms of quality and value designated by the State of Florida for additional protection from further pollution and degradation.

oligotrophic

Relatively unproductive lakes and estuaries having low levels of plant nutrients and algae, usually with high water clarity and dissolved oxygen.

ONRWs, Outstanding National Resource Waters

Water bodies which exhibit characteristics that meet specific water quality standards for national designation for protection from pollution and degradation.

organic

Referring to or derived from living organisms. In chemistry, any compound containing carbon.

organism

Any living thing.

organophosphates

Chemicals that contain phosphorous, often used to control insects. They are short-lived but can be toxic when first applied.

P

percolation

Downward flow or filtering of water through pores or spaces in rock or soil.

perennial stream

A watercourse that flows in a well-defined channel throughout most of the year under typical climatic conditions.

permeable

The ability of a material to allow liquids to pass through it.

permit

A legal document that allows the holder to do certain restricted activities.

permitted withdrawals

Approved withdrawals from the water resource by major users to meet public supply, industrial, mining, recreational and agricultural demands.

pesticides

Chemical substance, either liquid or granular, used for the control or eradication of undesirable insects, diseases, vegetation, animals and other organisms.

pH

The measure of how acidic or basic (alkaline) a solution is; ranges from 0 (acids) to 14 (bases) with distilled water being 7 (neutral); in aquatic systems, important to solubility of materials and tolerable ranges of biological species; estuaries are often close to neutral pH.

phenols

Organic compounds that are byproducts of petroleum refining, and textile, dye and resin manufacturing. High concentrations can cause taste and odor problems and be toxic.

phosphorus	An element necessary for aquatic plant growth; found naturally in low concentrations but added to surface and ground waters through human activity. Excessive concentrations in lakes and streams leads to overly fertile (eutrophic) conditions and algae blooms.
photic zone	The area of a lake or water body where there is enough light for photosynthesis to take place.
photosynthesis	The manufacture by plants of carbohydrates and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water in the presence of chlorophyll using sunlight as an energy source.
phytoplankton	Microscopic aquatic plants.
plankton	The community of micro-organisms, consisting of plants (phytoplankton) and animals (zooplankton) inhabiting open water regions of oceans, estuaries, lakes and rivers.
point source pollution	Pollutants discharged from any identifiable point, including pipes, ditches, channels, sewers, tunnels, and containers of various types; discharges from domestic and industrial treatment plants.
Pointless Personal Pollution pollutant	See Nonpoint Source Pollution Any introduced substance that adversely affects the usefulness of a resource or contaminates air, soil or water.
pollution	A generic word for any type of contamination of water, land or air.
polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)	A group of 209 compounds manufactured for electrical insulation and heating/cooling equipment, because they resist wear and chemical breakdown. Although banned in 1979 because of their persistence in the environment, recent surveys have found PCBs in every section of the country, even those remote from PCB manufacturers.
polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH)	PAHs are the result of incomplete combustion of organic compounds due to insufficient oxygen. They are associated with oils and greases and other components derived from petroleum products.
porous	Allows water to move through it; has pores.
potable	Drinkable; safe to drink.
potentiometric surface	The level to which water will rise in a well that fully penetrates a confined aquifer; the natural surface pressure of an aquifer.
precipitation	Moisture that falls back to earth as rain, hail, sleet or snow.
primary consumer	Lowest level of animals in the food chain, which eat plants or detritus.
priority pollutant	Toxic chemicals identified by the federal government as high priority for control because of their potential impact on the environment and/or human health.

priority watershed	A drainage area selected to focus resources for implementation of best management practices (BMPs) because problems are critical, control is practical, and cooperation is likely.
producers	Green plants that manufacture their own food through photosynthesis; provide oxygen for terrestrial and aquatic habitats; include algae and seagrasses in estuaries.
productivity	A measure of the amount of living matter that is supported by an environment over a specific period of time; for a lake, often described in terms of algae production.
public acquisitions	Public purchase or condemnation of waterfront property or public acquisition through gifts.
public lands	Lands wholly owned by any unit of local, regional, state or federal government.

R

RAP	Remedial Action Plan
recharge	The process of water seeping into the ground and refilling the aquifer.
recharge area	A place where water is able to seep into the ground and refill surficial aquifers.
reclaimed water	Water that has been used and then treated or cleansed so that it is safe to use again.
recycle	To use more than once, often for a different purpose than originally intended.
refuse	Inorganic waste materials such as metal, rubber, plastic and glass.
regeneration	The young tree crop that either artificially or naturally follows a stand of older trees removed by harvest and/or disaster.
reservoir	A natural or constructed basin where water is collected and stored.
respiration	In animals and plants, the process of converting carbohydrates to energy using oxygen and giving off carbon dioxide.
restore	To return something to its original condition.
retention areas	Areas in the landscape where storm water is diverted and stored until it can soak into the ground or evaporate, thereby reducing stormwater volume.
reuse	The act of using something after it has already been used.

reverse osmosis	A process that purifies water by forcing it under pressure through a fine membrane that filters out the contaminants, allowing only clean water to flow through.
rip-rap	Aggregate material placed on potentially erodible sites to reduce the impact of rain or surface runoff on these areas.
riparian areas	The swath of land adjacent to a river or stream that is the transition area between the uplands and the river.
riparian buffer	Natural protective areas provided by native plants and trees that filter and prevent harmful sediment and contaminants from entering the water body and stabilize the soil.
rough fish	Those species not prized for game purposes or for eating (i.e. gar, suckers, etc.) and can be indicative of long term changing environmental conditions.
RPC	Regional Planning Counsel
runoff	Water from rain or irrigation that flows over the ground surface and into lakes, streams or wetlands that often carries pollutants.
S	
salinity	The saltiness of water, usually expressed as parts (salt) per thousand (parts water); freshwater is generally less than 5 parts per thousand, estuaries generally range between 10 and 30 parts per thousand and ocean water is generally 35 parts per thousand.
saltwater intrusion	The phenomenon that occurs when saltwater moves inland from the seacoast or vertically to replace fresher water in an aquifer or surface water body.
saltwater marsh	Areas of shallow saltwater, usually found along the coast, covered with salt-tolerant grasses, spartina and other herbaceous plants.
SCS	Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. See NRCS
seagrasses	Flowering plants that live underwater; sometimes referred to as SAV (submerged aquatic vegetation).
secchi	A simple black and white disk used to measure water transparency or clarity.
secondary consumer	Second level of animals in the food chain; animals that prey on plant-eating primary consumers.
sediment	Any material carried in suspension by water, which settle to the bottom if as water loses velocity; fine waterborne matter deposited or accumulated in beds.

sediment oxygen demand (SOD)	A measure of the amount of dissolved oxygen demand by sediment reactions. The SOD can have a significant influence on the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water column.
septic tank	An enclosure that processes wastes using bacteria decomposition and stores the resulting sludge until it is periodically pumped off.
sinkhole	A hole or depression in the ground caused by erosion of underground limestone.
Site Sensitivity Class (SSC)	An index of an area's susceptibility to erosion and sediment production, based on soil type and slope.
skid	Moving of logs or felled trees from the stump to the loading point.
slope	An index of the change in elevation of a land area often referred to as a ratio or rise over run; normally expressed in percent.
sludge	The goeey, muddy solids that remain after wastewater has been treated.
snag trees	Standing dead trees that can provide valuable wildlife habitat.
Special Management Zone (SMZ)	An area of varying width adjacent to a watercourse in which special management precautions are necessary to protect natural resources.
spring	An area where ground water flows out of the ground to become surface water.
Suspended Solids (SS)	Solids that are not dissolved and can be removed by filtration; contributes directly to turbidity. In waste management, defined as small particles of solid pollutants that resist separation by conventional methods and are an indicator of water treatment effectiveness.
steward	An individual charged with the responsibility for management.
storm sewer	A system that collects and may treat stormwater runoff and then discharges it where it soaks into the ground or enters surface water.
stormwater runoff	Extra rainwater that does not soak into the ground and flows over land to surface water bodies.
stringer	Narrow strip of trees left on and/or near the banks of intermittent streams, lakes and sinkholes for purposes of stabilization, water quality protection and wildlife habitat.
surface water	Water found on the surface of the ground (rivers, lakes, streams, ponds).
swale	A shallow vegetated area that is designed to convey stormwater, allow it to soak into the ground, and filter pollutants.
swamp	A flat, low-lying freshwater wetland with trees and other vegetation.

T

teratogenic	Substances that are suspected of causing malformations or serious deviations in animal embryos or fetuses.
tertiary consumer	Third level of animals in the food chain, which eat other animals; top predators, the biggest or fastest animals in the food chain.
threatened species	Any plant or animal whose population keeps decreasing below critical levels.
top predators	Animals at the top of the food chain.
topography	The physical features of a surface area including relative elevations and the position of natural and man-made features.
total maximum daily loads (TMDLs)	The maximum amount of a pollutant that can be discharged into a water body and maintain its designated beneficial uses.
toxic	Anything related to poison or harmful materials.
toxic wastes	Garbage or wastes containing harmful materials.
transpiration	The process of giving off moisture through the surface of leaves.
tributary	A creek, stream or river that flows into a larger river, lake or estuary.
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act, a federal law
turbidity	An optical measurement of the relative clarity of water; influenced by plankton, sediment, and water color and can affect plant growth.

U

undeveloped uplands	Areas in the landscape that are topographically high, well-draining, and do not have constructed improvements.
urban runoff	Water that flows from developed areas including landscaped areas, driveways, streets and industrial areas and often contains pollutants, pesticides, fertilizers, and particulate matter.
US EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture

V

vegetation	Grasses, plants and trees.
vertebrates	Animals with a backbone or spinal column such as mammals, birds, fishes, reptiles and amphibians.
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound

W

wastewater	Water carrying dissolved or suspended solids from homes, farms, businesses, and industries.
water bar	A BMP typically used on forest roads consisting of a mound of soil built across a light-duty road, skid trail, or fire line, for the purpose of diverting surface water.
water body	Any river, creek, slough, canal, lake, reservoir, pond, sinkhole or other natural or artificial watercourse that flows within a defined channel or is contained within a discernable shoreline.
water conservation	The use of water-saving methods to reduce the amount of water needed for homes, lawns, farming, and industry, and thus increasing water supplies for optimum long-term economic and social benefits.
water control structure	Any structure used to regulate surface or subsurface water levels.
water cycle	The process of water moving from the earth into the atmosphere and back to earth again.
water quality	Characteristics that define the value of water determined by pollutant levels, aquatic system function, productivity, water clarity and species health.
water quality criteria	Measures of the physical, chemical or biological characteristics of a water body necessary to protect and maintain different beneficial water uses (fish and aquatic life, swimming, etc.).
water resource	Any and all water on or beneath the surface of the ground, including natural or artificial water courses, lakes, ponds, or surface water or water percolating, standing or flowing beneath the surface of the earth.
water restrictions	Rules limiting the times and ways people can use water.
water turn out	A BMP typically used on forest roads consisting of an extension of a road ditch into a vegetated area to provide for the dispersion and filtration of stormwater runoff.

watershed	An area of land from which water drains into a receiving water body such as a stream, river, lake or estuary.
wetlands	Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support specific types of vegetative or aquatic life.
wet detention pond	A permanent pool of water to which stormwater is diverted for treatment.
WAV	Watershed Action Volunteer Program
WMD	Water Management District
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

X

Xeriscape	A type of landscape designed to conserve water. See Florida Yards and Neighborhoods Program.
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Z

zooplankton	Microscopic aquatic animals.
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SOURCES:

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