

Watershed Map of the United States



MAP SOURCE:
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Resources Inventory & Assessment Division

What is a watershed?

It's the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. You're sitting in a watershed now. Homes, farms, ranches, forests, small towns, big cities and more can make up watersheds. Some cross county, state, and even international borders. Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some are millions of square miles, others are just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed.

Why is your watershed important?

We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources.

Healthy watersheds are vital for a healthy environment and economy. Our watersheds provide water for drinking, irrigation and industry. Many people also enjoy lakes and streams for their beauty and for boating, fishing and swimming. Wildlife also need healthy watersheds for food and shelter.

Understanding your watershed.
The watershed where you live is a dynamic and unique place. It is a complex web of natural resources - soil, water, air, plants and animals. Yet, everyday activities can impact these resources, ultimately impacting our well-being and economic livelihood.

Watershed Address

Over the years a system for identifying and numbering watersheds has been developed in the United States. Through this system all U.S. watersheds have a proper name and a corresponding number. The watershed's number is commonly called it's "watershed address."

For additional information on watersheds:
Visit: <http://www.nacdnet.org> to find your local conservation district
Contact your local, state or federal conservation agency.
Visit: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm> and
<http://water.usgs.gov/GIS/regions.html>
<http://www.ctic.purdue.edu/Know%20Your%20Watershed/>

Information source: CTIC - Know your watershed
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