

Water Words

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Game fish:

Species such as trout, salmon, or bass, caught for sport.

Gas chromatograph/mass spectrometer:

An instrument that identifies the molecular composition and concentrations of various chemicals in water and soil samples.

General permit:

A set general WDRs that is applicable to a class or category of dischargers, including, but not limited to, general NPDES permits.

Giardia lamblia:

Protozoan in the feces of humans and animals that can cause severe gastrointestinal ailments. It is a common contaminant of surface waters.

Goal:

Clearly defined, desired end result (intended outcome) of implementing an identified strategy that supports the mission. Goals, which can be short-term or long-term, are linked to the issues to be addressed or the problems to be solved with strategies identified in a performance plan.

Grab sample:

A single sample collected at a particular time and place that represents the composition of the water, or soil only at that time and place.

Granular activated carbon treatment (GAC):

A filtering system often used in small water systems and individual homes to remove organics. Also used by municipal water treatment plants, and can be highly effective in lowering elevated levels of radon in water.

Grassed waterway:

Natural or constructed watercourse or outlet that is shaped or graded and planted in suitable vegetation for the disposal of runoff water without erosion.

Gray water:

Domestic wastewater composed of wash water from kitchen, bathroom, and laundry sinks, tubs, and washers.

Groundcover:

Plants grown to keep soil from eroding.

Groundwater:

The supply of fresh water found underground, usually in aquifers, which supply wells and springs. Because ground water is a major source of drinking water, there is growing concern over contamination from leaching agricultural or industrial pollutants or leaking underground storage tanks.

Groundwater recharge:

Refers to the addition to the water within the earth that occurs naturally from infiltration of rainfall and from water flowing over the earth.

Gully erosion:

Severe erosion in which trenches are cut to a depth greater than one foot (1'). Generally, ditches shallow enough to cross with farm equipment are considered gullies.