Watershed Tour - Terms to Remember

**Retention** basins maintain a pool of water throughout the year and hold stormwater runoff following storms. Retention basins have a riser with an orifice at a higher point so that it retains a permanent pool of water. Retention basins also serve to replenish water to groundwater through seepage.

**Detention** basins hold water for a short period of time; this basin temporarily holds water before it enters the stream. A detention, or dry, basin has an orifice level with the bottom of the basin so that all of the water eventually drains out and it remains dry between storms – hence, a dry basin.

Ecoservices are, in short “the benefits of nature to households, communities, and economies.” A challenge of bringing ecoservices into the economy is developing consistency between these two units (monetary and ecosystem), as it necessary for an eco-economic system to function. Ecoservices are grouped into four broad categories: provisioning, such as the production of food and water; regulating, such as the control of climate and disease; supporting, such as nutrient cycles and crop pollination; and cultural, such as spiritual and recreational benefits. To help inform decision-makers, many ecosystem services are being assigned economic values.

1) Provisional ecoservices are the products obtained from ecosystems and include food, fiber, fuel, genetics, bio-chemicals, and fresh water. These goods and services usually have the characteristic of being fairly easily measured and valued.

2) Regulating ecoservices are benefits that are derived from the processes and functions of ecosystems such as local and global climates, water flows, erosion control, water purification, pollination, and biological controls of insects and disease.
3) Supporting ecoservices are those that are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services, and their impacts on people are either indirect or occur over a long period of time. In contrast, provisional and regulating services can have relatively short-term impacts. Supporting services include soil formation, primary production, nutrient cycling, oxygen production, seed dispersal, water cycling, and sufficient biodiversity for evolutionary processes.

4) Cultural ecoservices are non-material benefits that include ecological and cultural connections that create diverse cultures, religious values, knowledge bases, inspiration, aesthetic values, social relationships, and a sense of place, heritage, and recreation. Perceptions of cultural services are more apt to differ among individuals and communities than how to value provisional ecoservices and regulating ecoservices.

**Greenway** a strip of undeveloped land near an urban area, set aside for recreational use or environmental protection.

**Best management practices (BMPs)** are state-of-the-art mitigation measures applied to stormwater management, protecting water and/or air quality, promoting soil conservation, protecting wildlife and other practices that impact the natural environment. A BMP can be a structural "thing" that you actually install on-the-ground. Examples may include runoff diversions, silt fence, stream buffers and groundcover vegetation over bare soil areas. A BMP can also be part of the "process" that you use to plan, conduct and close-out your forestry operation. Examples include preharvest planning, laying out roads in advance of construction, marking stream buffers with paint or flagging, and locating streams on the site before you begin work.

**Riparian Buffer** is a vegetated area (a "buffer strip") near a stream, usually forested, which helps shade and partially protect a stream from the impact of adjacent land uses. It plays a key role in increasing water quality in associated streams, rivers, and lakes, thus providing environmental benefits.

**National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)** permit program addresses water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants to waters of the United States. The program areas include, Animal Feeding Operations, Industrial Wastewater, Municipal Wastewater, National Pretreatment Program, Pesticide Applications, Stormwater, Vessel Discharges and more. Created in 1972 by the Clean Water Act, the NPDES permit program is authorized to state governments by EPA to perform many permitting, administrative, and enforcement aspects of the program.