What Is A Watershed?

A watershed is the region of land that drains to a particular body of water, such as a river or lake. Rain that falls anywhere in that watershed eventually flows to that body of water. It may travel overland as surface water or flow undergroud as groundwater.

The Water-Energy Connection

• It takes water to make energy. Conserving energy perserves water supplies.
• It also takes energy to treat and deliver water to homes, schools, and businesses.
So conserving water conserves energy, and\ conserving energy means fewer pollutants are produced.

Watershed = Connections

Everything is connected in a watershed:
• Water enters the watershed as rain or snowmelt, soaking into the ground to replenish aquifers.
• Small springs feed wetlands and streams that in turn feed rivers and lakes.
• Water and nutirents cycle through the air, water bodies, vegetation, animals, soil, and aquifers.
• All life in the watershed depends on these cycles.

Water - Trees - Fires

• Trees need water to grow. Water comes from healthy watersheds. Trees help to keep watersheds healthy.
• Thirsty trees succumb to disease and insects more readily than healthy trees.
• Dead trees are fuel for wildfires.

Watershed and Climate

• Healthy watersheds temper the local climate.
• The shade from trees cools soil and air temperature which may reduce evaporation in hot climates.
• Leaves and needles break the impact of heavy rains.
• Vegetated landscapes protect against strong winds.

Watershed/Carbon Connection

• Carbon is present all through our watersheds as a gas in the air and dissolved in water. It appears as living tissue in animals and plants or in mineral form in soils and rocks.
• Carbon is stored in the soil and in substances such as wood.
• Carbon is released through decomposition or fire.