

## Ch.14 Glossary

<b>aquifer</b>	Porous, water-saturated layers of sand, gravel, or bedrock that can yield an economically significant amount of water.
<b>desalination</b>	Purification of salt water or brackish (slightly salty) water by removal of dissolved salts.
<b>drainage basin</b>	See watershed.
<b>drought</b>	Condition in which an area does not get enough water because of lower-than-normal precipitation or higher-than-normal temperatures that increase evaporation.
<b>evaporation</b>	Conversion of a liquid into a gas.
<b>floodplain</b>	Flat valley floor next to a stream channel. For legal purposes, the term often applies to any low area that has the potential for flooding, including certain coastal areas.
<b>groundwater</b>	Water that sinks into the soil and is stored in slowly flowing and slowly renewed underground reservoirs called aquifers; underground water in the zone of saturation, below the water table. Compare runoff, surface water.
<b>natural recharge</b>	Natural replenishment of an aquifer by precipitation, which percolates downward through soil and rock. See recharge area.
<b>recharge area</b>	Any area of land allowing water to pass through it and into an aquifer. See aquifer, natural recharge.
<b>reliable runoff</b>	Surface runoff of water that generally can be counted on as a stable source of water from year to year. See runoff.
<b>saltwater intrusion</b>	Movement of salt water into freshwater aquifers in coastal and inland areas as groundwater is withdrawn faster than it is recharged by precipitation.
<b>stream</b>	Flowing body of surface water. Examples are creeks and rivers.
<b>subsidence</b>	Slow or rapid sinking of part of the earth's crust that is not slope-related.
<b>surface runoff</b>	Water flowing off the land into bodies of surface water. See reliable runoff.
<b>surface water</b>	Precipitation that does not infiltrate the ground or return to the atmosphere by evaporation or transpiration. See runoff. Compare groundwater.
<b>water table</b>	Upper surface of the zone of saturation, in which all available pores in the soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled with water.
<b>watershed</b>	Land area that delivers water, sediment, and dissolved substances via small streams to a major stream (river).
<b>zone of aeration</b>	Zone in soil that is not saturated with water and that lies above the water table. See water table, zone of saturation.
<b>zone of saturation</b>	Area where all available pores in soil and rock in the earth's crust are filled by water. See water table, zone of aeration.