

Glossary of Terms

Best Management Practices (BMP) – Schedules of activities, prohibitions of practices, maintenance procedures and other management practice to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to waters of the State or United States. This definition also includes treatment requirements, operating procedures and practices to control plant site runoff, spillage or leaks, sludge or waster disposal, or drainage from raw material storage.

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) - The amount of oxygen used by microorganisms in the breakdown or decay of organic matter in a water body.

Channel - A natural or artificial waterway.

Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) - Measure of the total oxidizable substances.

Coir - Coconut fiber.

Detachment - The separation of soil particles from the existing soil structure.

Dike - A structure designed either to reduce the water velocity as stream flow passes through the dike so that sediment deposition occurs instead of erosion (permeable dike), or to deflect erosive currents away from the stream bank (impermeable dike).

Erosion – Is the natural wearing away of the ground surface by water, wind, and other forces. Erosion occurs naturally from weather or runoff but is often intensified by human land use practices.

Erosion Control Blanket - Blanket made from straw, coir, excelsior, jute or synthetic material and is sometimes enveloped on one or both sides in a polypropylene, nylon, extruded plastic or biodegradable cotton, jute, or other decomposable netting. Used to stabilize disturbed or highly erosive soils while vegetation is established. Temporary blankets made from biodegradable or photodegradable components last several months to a year, and permanent blankets (also called turf reinforcement mats) can last for several years.

Geotextile - Textile made from synthetic fibers, usually non-biodegradable. Geotextiles can be solid, woven or non-woven and have varying degrees of porosity. They can be used as moisture barriers, separation, stabilization, drainage, or filtration of soils.

Gravitational Creep - Gradual flow or change in dimension under sustained constant load.

Gully Erosion - An advanced form of rill erosion, in which large channels are incised into the soil by water runoff.

Hydraulic Mulching - Applying wood fiber, or other organic mulch over the top of a mixture of seed, water, and fertilizer in a minimum of two applications to help retain soil and moisture to promote seed germination and plant growth.

Hydro seeding - The process of seeding by mixing seed with water and fertilizer and then spraying the solution onto a seedbed. Covering the seed and fertilizer mixture with a type of mulch to hold the moisture and promote germination and plant growth usually follows.

Mulch - A natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other materials covering the land surface that conserves moisture, holds soil in place, aids in establishing plant cover, and minimizes temperature fluctuations.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) - The national program for issuing, modifying, revoking and reissuing, terminating, monitoring and enforcing permits, and imposing and enforcing pretreatment requirements, under sections 307, 402, 318, and 405 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

Non-point source pollution - Pollution originating from diffuse sources.

Revegetation - Reestablishing vegetative cover on ground that has been disturbed, such as a construction site.

Rill Erosion - Removal of soil particles from a slope by surface runoff moving through relatively small channels, as between crop rows. This is the most common form of erosion.

Riprap - A quantity of broken stone for foundations revetments or embankments randomly placed to inhibit erosion or scour.

Saltation Erosion - Erosion occurring when large quantities of soil particles are lifted into the air by the wind forces and moved mainly horizontally across the surface. The particles bounce onto the surface, lifting other particles and causing damage to the surface and to the vegetation.

Sediment - Soil particles that have been transported away from their natural location by wind or water action.

Sediment Basin - A pond created to retain runoff long enough to allow excess sediment to settle out.

Sheet Erosion - The removal of soils from a surface by runoff flowing uniformly over a layer of soil.

Shoreline Erosion - Erosion occurring at lakeshores and ocean coastlines. It is characterized by sloughing of banks and mass wasting of material into the water body. It is usually caused by wave action.

Snow Melt Erosion - Erosion occurring when snow melts causing water flow over soils, which cause erosion.

Splash Erosion - Erosion caused by the impact of raindrops on bare soils.

Storm Drain - A drainage collection system constructed to collect storm water runoff; this can be separate from the sanitary sewer or wastewater system.

Stream Bank - The slope immediately bordering a stream course along which the water normally runs.

Stream Bank Erosion – Removal of soil particles or a mass of particles from a bank surface due primarily to water action.

Surface Creep Erosion - Erosion caused when heavy particles move or roll across the soil surface dislodging other particles causing them to move.

Suspension Erosion - Erosion attributed to the movement of fine particles suspended in water or air.

Tackifier - Material sprayed onto a soil surface to bind soil particles together and prevent erosion.

Turbidity – Muddy water, having sediment or foreign particles stirred up or suspended. Measured by the Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) is the current practice.

Wind Erosion - Removal or movement of soil particles by air movement.