We All Live In A Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that channels rainfall and snowmelt into a common body of water such as rivers, streams and lakes. Water from hundreds, and often thousands, of creeks and streams flow from higher ground to rivers that eventually end up in a larger body of water. Not all water flows directly into the ocean however, when rain falls on dry ground, it can soak into, or infiltrate, the ground. This ground water remains in the soil and it eventually seeps into the nearest stream, it becomes part of the groundwater supply which eventually connects with the surface water. They supply drinking water, support agriculture, sustain ecosystems, and help manage stormwater. The quality of water within a watershed is influenced by both natural processes and human activities.

The importance of a watershed is that healthy watersheds provide critical ecosystem services. It also includes clean and drinkable water and stabilizing soils. Sediments can cause the water to become cloudy making it difficult for fish to eat. It can also wear out the pumps and turbines of water treatment plants leading to an increased maintenance cost. The climate could have great impacts on watershed health.

In North Carolina and other states across the southeastern U.S, It's expected to increase the storms passing through or over the region. Many environment organizations are working and government agencies are working to protect watersheds to keep them from getting nasty and dirty. But there are also other ways to keep them clean, you can take steps to reduce your carbon footprint, and you can also recycle it.

Hard surfaces don't absorb water, which puts more on the grassy areas to absorb the rainwater. This problem is usually fixed by installing storm water drainage, such as gutters, surface drains, storm sewers and ditches. No matter how big or small, watersheds are really important because they supply us with water to drink, recreation, industry, and agriculture.

Bryleigh Nelson

Hayesville Middle School

Emily Mull

6th Grade

135 School Drive Hayesville, NC 28904

Clay

Clay