Impacts of Sediment Pollution

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Soil Benefits

- Supports forests
- Grows food
- Purifies water
- Controls flooding

Sediment

Soil in the wrong place causes problems within streams, lakes, wetlands

Goals:

- Keep healthy soil in place
- Control runoff of soil from earth disturbance sites

Erosion and Sedimentation

- EPA lists sediment as the most common pollutant in rivers, streams, lakes and reservoirs
- Natural erosion produces nearly 30% of the total sediment in the United States

Erosion and Sedimentation

- Accelerated erosion from human uses of land produces the remaining 70% of total sediment
- Increasing earth disturbance, from land development activities, can result in stormwater runoff carrying excess levels of soil sediment into surface waters.

Impacts of Sediment Pollution

- Increased frequency and intensity of flooding as sediment clogs waterways
- Water polluted with sediment becomes cloudy, preventing animals from seeing food and vegetation from growing in the water

Impacts of Sediment Pollution

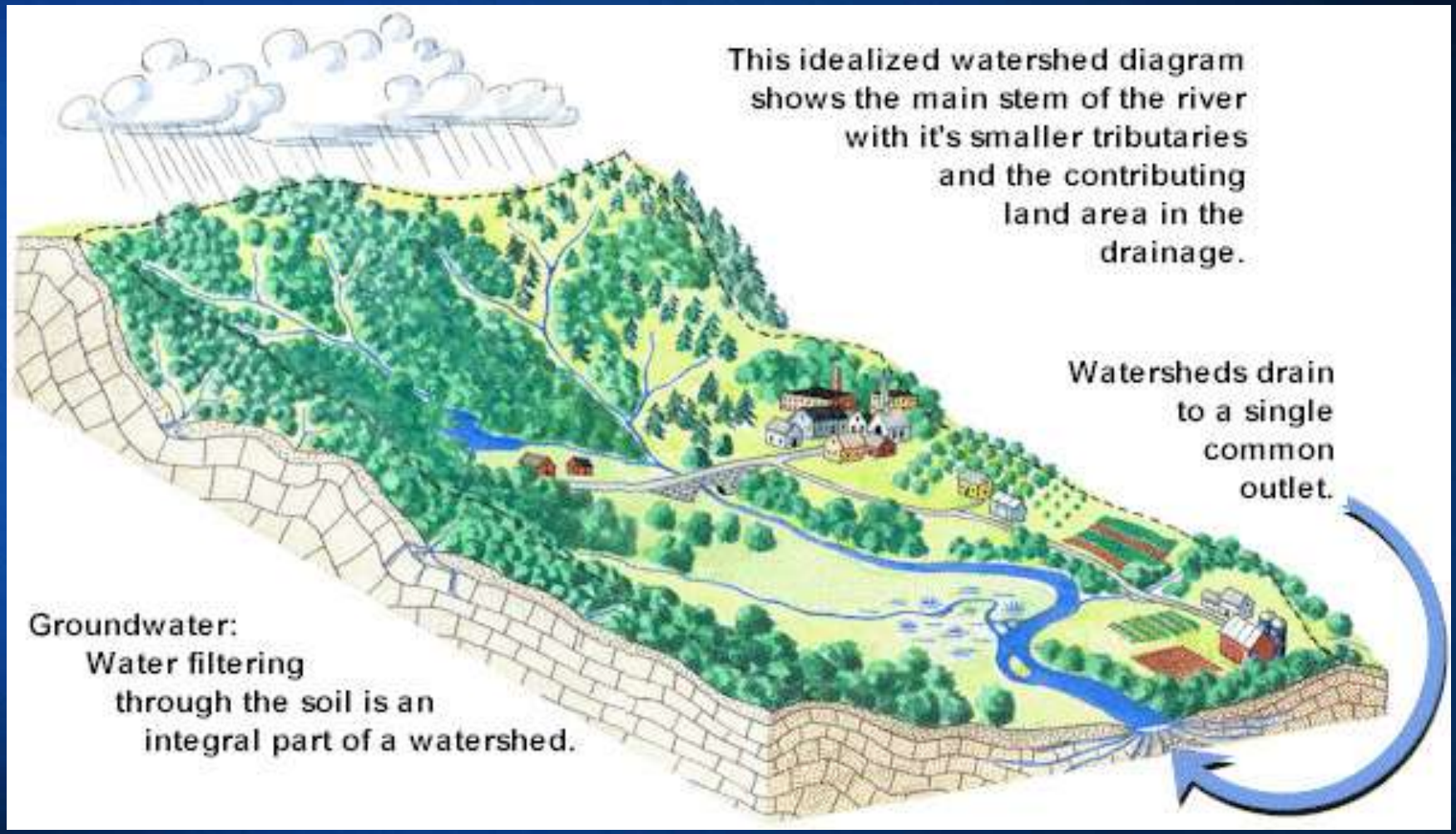
- Food Chain disruption: Streambeds are smothered
- Pollutants “hitch hike” on soil particles
- Increase in aquatic plant growth due to excess nutrients
- Contamination of public water supplies & increased filtration costs

Aquatic Life of Pike County Streams

- Insects
- Salamanders
- Mussels
- Mammals
- Birds
- Fish

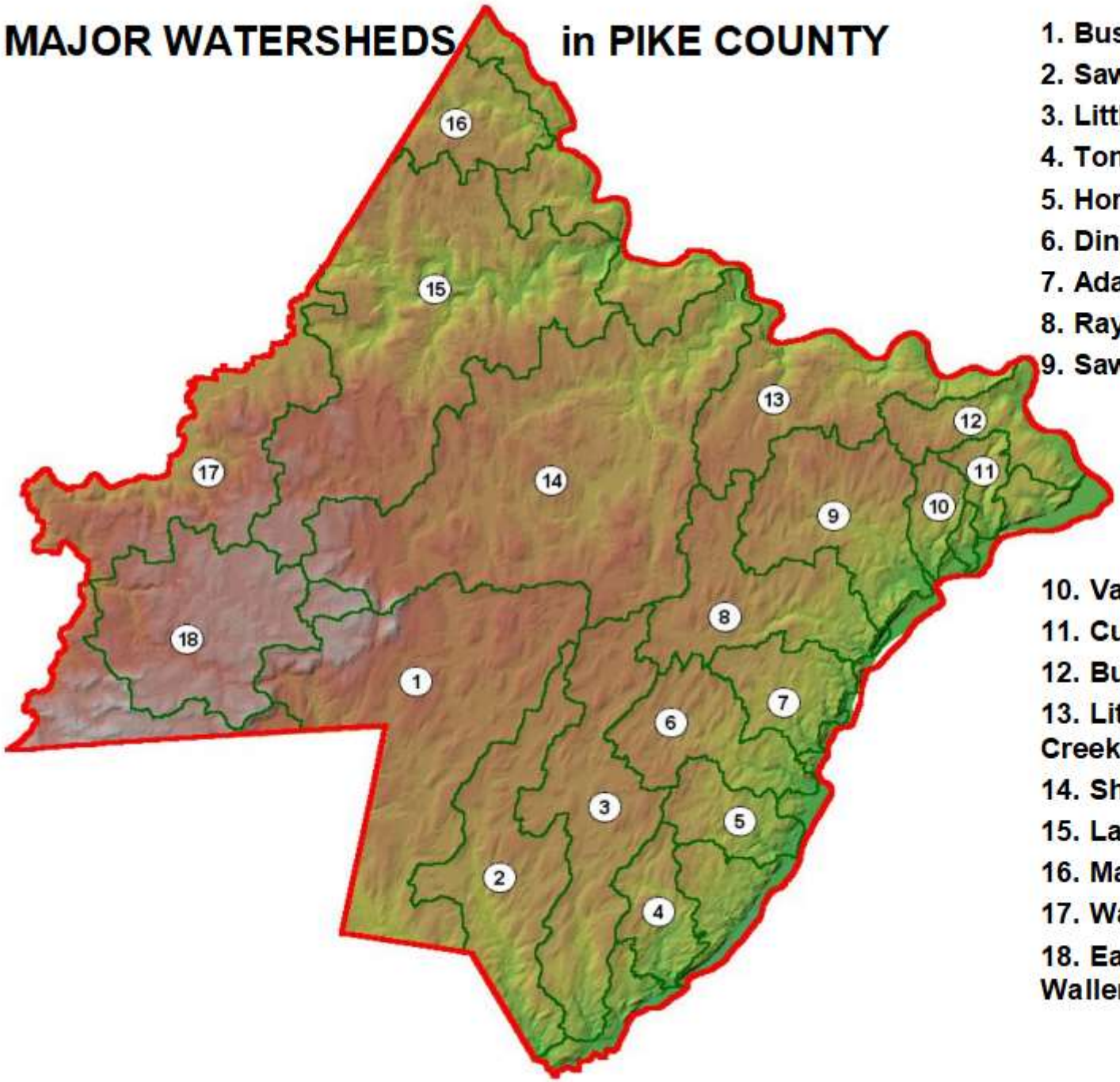
High Diversity = Healthy Streams

What is a Watershed?



Artwork by: Katherine Dodge

MAJOR WATERSHEDS in PIKE COUNTY



1. Bushkill Creek
2. Sawcreek
3. Little Bushkill Creek
4. Toms Creek
5. Hornbecks Creek
6. Dingmans Creek
7. Adams Creek
8. Raymondskill Creek
9. Sawkill Creek
10. Vandermark Creek
11. Cummins Creek
12. Bush Kill (Millrift) Crk
13. Little Walker/Twin Lake Creek
14. Shohola Creek
15. Lackawaxen River
16. Masthope Creek
17. Wallenpaupack Creek
18. East Branch Wallenpaupack Creek

Stream Classifications

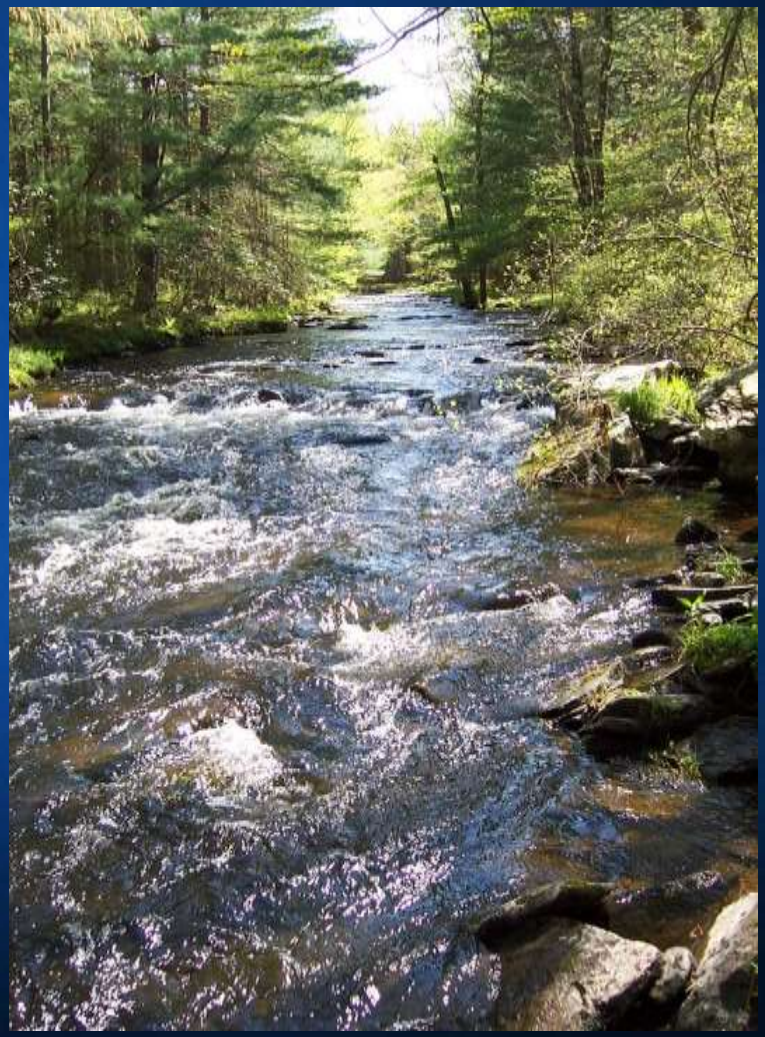
Classification based on the aquatic life in a stream and/or PFBC stream classification

Exceptional Value (EV) – high quality streams that are wilderness trout streams, flow through state natural areas or federally protected wilderness areas, or meet other standards.

High Quality (HQ) – streams that meet biological, chemical, or class A trout stream standards.

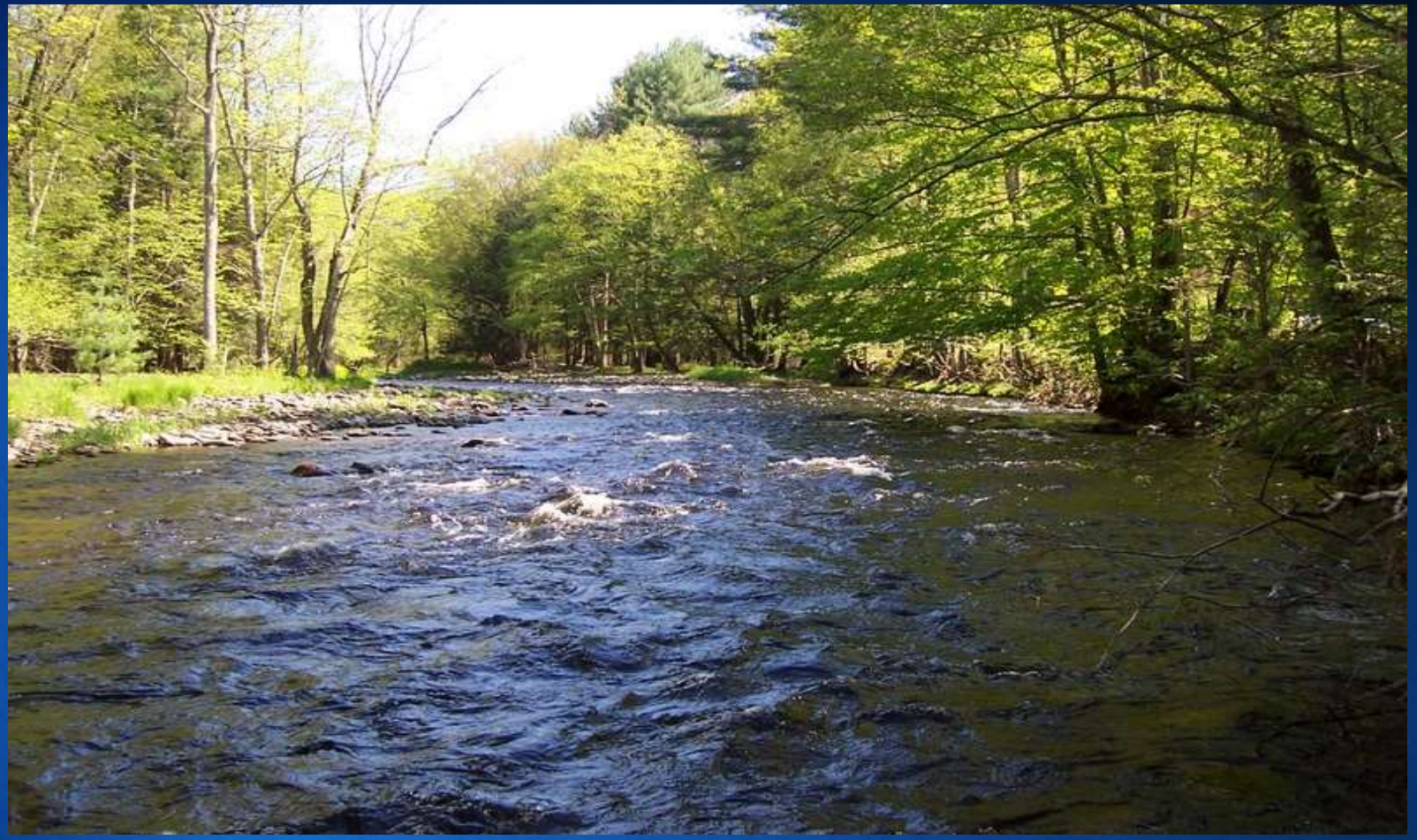
Trout Stocked Fishery (TSF) – includes all streams capable of supporting a stocked trout fishery.

Cold Water Fishery (CWF) – Maintenance or propagation, or both, of fish species including the family Salmonidae (Trout) and additional flora and fauna which are indigenous to a cold water habitat.



Controlling Soil Sediment

- Site Planning
- Erosion and Sediment (E&S) Control Plans
- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Stabilization



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