

# Water Monitoring Vocabulary

**Acidic:** the condition of water or soil that contains a sufficient amount of acid substances to lower the pH below 7.0

**Alkaline:** relating to or having the properties of a base

**Basic:** the measure of pH with values above 7, Reflection of the log number of hydrogen ions in solution

**Buffer:** a solution or liquid whose chemical makeup is such that it minimizes changes in pH when acids or bases are added to it

**Clarity:** clearness of appearance

**Conductivity** - A measure of the electrical current carrying capacity, in mhos/cm, of 1 cm<sup>3</sup> of water at 25° C. Dissolved substances in water dissociate into ions with the ability to conduct electrical current. Conductivity is a measure of how salty water is; salty water has high conductivity.

**Contour Interval:** change in elevation represented between a pair of contour lines

**Contour Lines:** lines on a map connecting points of the same elevation above sea level

**Contour Map:** two-dimensional representation of elevations on the earth's surface using contour lines

**Degrees:** largest unit of measurement for latitude and longitude that is equivalent to approximately 69 miles

**Density:** thickness of consistency; The mass per unit volume of a substance under specified conditions of pressure and temperature.

**Depression:** enclosed area of decreasing elevation signified by closed circles with hachure marks on a topographic map

**Electrical current** - a current or stream of electricity traversing a closed circuit formed of conducting substances, or passing by means of conductors from one body to another which is in a different electrical state

**Elevation:** vertical distance of a place from mean sea level

**Fresh Water:** Water that generally contains less than 1,000 milligrams-per-liter of dissolved solids.

**Hilltop:** enclosed area of increasing elevation signified by closed circles on a topographic map

**Latitude:** lines in a grid system on the earth's surface that measure north and south and run east and west

**Legend:** key for symbols found on a map

**Logarithmic:** The power to which a base, such as 10, must be raised to produce a given number. If  $n^x = a$ , the logarithm of  $a$ , with  $n$  as the base, is  $x$ ; symbolically,  $\log_n a = x$ . For example,  $10^3 = 1,000$ ; therefore,  $\log_{10} 1,000 = 3$ .

**Longitude:** lines in a grid system of the earth's surface that measure east and west and run north and south

**Minutes:** second largest unit of measurement of latitude and longitude that is equivalent to one-sixtieth of a degree

**Organic:** of, relating to, or derived from living organisms.

**Photosynthesis:** the process in green plants and certain other organisms by which carbohydrates are synthesized from carbon dioxide and water using light as an energy source. Most forms of photosynthesis release oxygen as a by-product.

**Salinity:** The percentage of salt in water.

**Salts:** Minerals that water picks up as it passes through the air, over and under the ground, or from households and industry

**Scale:** ratio between the distance on a map and the actual distance on the earth's surface for the same area

**Secchi Disk:** a device for measuring the turbidity of a body of water by measuring the depth at which a black-and-white disk is no longer visible.

**Seconds:** third largest unit of measurement of latitude and longitude that is equivalent to one-sixtieth of a minute

**Silt:** the loose sedimentary material with rock particles no larger than 1/20th of a millimeter. Silt deposits contain less than 20% clay.

**Slope:** change in elevation over a specific distance between two points

**Stratification:** to form, arrange, or deposit in layers. A layer configuration.

**Stream Flow:** amount of water passing a particular point in a given amount of time in a stream

**Stream Flow Direction:** general direction, or orientation — such as north, south, east, or west, that water in a stream is moving

**Suspended solids:** a solid particle in the water that is not dissolved in that water.

**Topography:** natural and cultural features of the earth's surface

**Topographic Map:** two-dimensional representation of natural and cultural features on the earth's surface

**Total dissolved solids** – The amount of material (inorganic salts and small amounts of organic material) dissolved in water.

**Turbidity:** a measure of how much material is suspended in water.

**USGS, United States Geological Survey:** federal agency responsible for making topographic maps

**Watershed:** the area of land drained by a particular river or stream system.



# Appendix 1

## Little Bear Creek Watershed

