

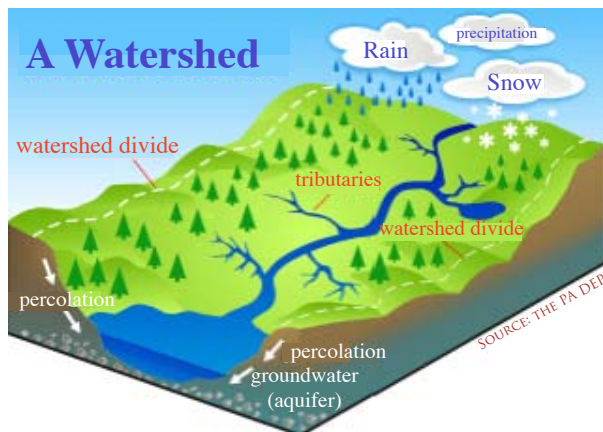
What is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land from which all of the water drains into the same body of water, such as a river or lake. Ridges and hills that separate two watershed areas are called watershed divides.

To find out whether you are located within the Almanor Basin Watershed, follow the closest stream and trace the flow of water as it enters into a larger waterbody. If water from your local stream eventually flows into Lake Almanor, then you are located within the Almanor Basin Watershed.

Watershed management is important because activities happening within the Lake Almanor Watershed affect the quality and amount of water entering the Lake.

Precipitation falls on the watershed as rain or snow, and flows downhill over the land or through the soil. The water that flows over the land drains into tributaries that flow into rivers, eventually draining into the lake. Some of the precipitation soaks, or percolates into the soil, making its way as groundwater to the tributaries, rivers, or lake.



As water runs downhill, it picks up woody debris, leaves, and needles that provide necessary food and shelter for organisms living in the streams. Water can also carry motor oil, fertilizer, pesticides, and eroded soil. Small actions like driving your car, fertilizing the pasture, or even walking your dog can



PHOTO BY BETTY A. BISHOP

inadvertently pollute the watershed you live in. As the tributaries flow into the Lake, so do the pollutants. It all adds up.

Three Main Watershed Functions

- 1. Captures Water.** Vegetation acts as a surface which slows water movement, allowing for the capture of water.
- 2. Stores Water.** After precipitation enters the soil as either rain or snowmelt, it fills the spaces between rocks and soil particles and becomes groundwater.
- 3. Releases Water.** Springs, wetlands, and floodplains release groundwater into lakes and streams.

What can you do for your watershed?

Read our fact sheets to learn about how to:

- Plan your landscaping and gardening to minimize sediment and nutrient runoff
- Adopt practices that slow stormwater flow over your property to minimize water pollution and erosion
- Ensure that your septic system is located in an appropriate area and is regularly maintained
- Learn how to protect critical habitat areas for fish and wildlife species



PHOTO BY SUSAN McDONALD

How can I become involved?

- Read fact sheets about the Lake Almanor watershed
- Become a volunteer in the upcoming citizen monitoring program
- Participate in public workshops
- Attend Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee (ABWAC) meetings

ABWAC

The Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee (ABWAC).

Watershed groups offer a trustworthy link between government, community groups, businesses, and local residents. The Almanor Basin Watershed Advisory Committee (ABWAC) was established by the Plumas County Board of Supervisors to address natural resource issues in the watershed by a locally-led effort rather than a top-down, regulatory one.

ABWAC seeks to:

- Bring local people with diverse natural resource concerns to the same table.
- Address change by working to understand impacts, educating the basin population, and advancing practices that protect basin resources.
- Address hot topics like water quality and endangered species listings.
- Develop watershed approaches that include natural resource concerns and community development priorities.



PHOTO BY ROGER WALDEN



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For more information concerning the Lake Almanor Watershed planning effort and how you can become involved, contact the Watershed Coordinator at (530) 284-1022 or WatershedInfo@SierraInstitute.us



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?



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LAKE ALMANDOR WATERSHED PROJECT

FACT SHEET #1