



Watershed Address

Data Sheet & Discussion Questions

After watching the video, use the [EPA Waters Geo Viewer](#) to fill out the following data table for the watersheds encompassing your location from smallest to largest. An example data table has been filled out for you for the video.

Example Data

Name	Youngs Branch	Bull Run River	Occoquan River	Potomac River
Area (km ²)	17.80 km ²	502.17 km ²	1,554.49 km ²	37,960.94 km ²
Land Cover				
Type 1 (highest %)	Other	Other	Other	Deciduous Forest
Type 2 (2 nd highest %)	Deciduous Forest	Deciduous Forest	Deciduous Forest	Other
Type 3 (3 rd highest %)	Low Intensity Residential	Low Intensity Residential	Low Intensity Residential	Low Intensity Residential
Type 4 (4 th highest %)	Evergreen Forest	Evergreen Forest	Evergreen Forest	Evergreen Forest
Impaired Waters? (Y/N)	N	Y	Y	Y
Estimated Percent Impaired Waters	0%	30%	10%	80%

Student Data

Name				
Area (km ²)				
Land Cover				
Type 1 (highest %)				
Type 2 (2 nd highest %)				
Type 3 (3 rd highest %)				
Type 4 (4 th highest %)				

Impaired Waters? (Y/N)				
Estimated Percent Impaired Waters				

Discussion Questions

1. Which was your largest watershed?

2. How many states are included in your largest watershed?

3. Why are watersheds important to water quality?

4. Look at the land cover class definitions table below. Were there any land cover types in your watersheds that are likely to include impervious surfaces? List them below.

5. Which of your watersheds had the most impaired waters? Why do you think that is?

6. Go to the [EPA's Hows My Waterway database](#). Click choose a location. Enter your zipcode. Click 'Other Water Info' tab. Under 'Drinking Water Supplies in search/area' it will tell you the location where your drinking water comes from. Using the search terms '(location) drinking water supply' research which river is the source of your drinking/tap water?

Land Cover Class Definitions

Water	Open Water	All areas of open water, generally with less than 25% cover of vegetation/land cover
	Ice/Snow	All areas characterized by year-long surface cover of ice and/or snow
Developed	Low Intensity Residential	Areas with a mixture of constructed materials (asphalt, concrete buildings, etc.) and vegetation. Constructed materials account for 30-80 percent of the cover. Vegetation may account for 20 to 70 percent of the cover. These areas most commonly include single-family housing units. Population densities will be lower than in high intensity residential areas.
	High Intensity Residential	Includes highly developed areas where people reside in high numbers. Examples include apartment complexes and row houses. Vegetation accounts for less than 20 percent of the cover. Constructed materials account for 80 to 100 percent of the cover.
	Commerical	Includes infrastructure (e.g. roads, railroads, etc.) and all highly developed areas not classified as High Intensity Residential.
Barren	Bare rock/sand/clay	Perennially barren areas of bedrock, desert pavement, scarps, talus, slides, volcanic material, glacial debris, beaches, and other accumulations of earthen material.
	Quarries/mines/gravel pits	Areas of extractive mining activities with significant surface expression.
	Transitional	Areas of sparse vegetative cover (less than 25 percent of cover) that are dynamically changing from one land cover to another, often because of land use activities. Examples include forest clear cuts, a transition phase between forest and agricultural land, the temporary clearing of vegetation, and changes due to natural causes (e.g. fire, flood, etc.).
Forested Upland	Deciduous Forest	Areas dominated by trees where 75 percent or more of the tree species shed foliage simultaneously in response to seasonal change.
	Evergreen Forest	Areas dominated by trees where 75 percent or more of the tree species maintain their leaves all year. Canopy is never without green foliage.
	Mixed Forest	Areas dominated by trees where neither deciduous nor evergreen species represent more than 75 percent of the cover present.

Shrubland	Shrubland	Areas dominated by shrubs; shrub canopy accounts for 25-100 percent of the cover.
Non-Natural Woody	Orchards/vineyards/other	Orchards, vineyards, and other areas planted or maintained for the production of fruits, nuts, berries, or ornamentals.
Herbaceous Upland	Grasslands/Herbaceous	Areas dominated by upland grasses and forbs, herbaceous vegetation accounts for 75-100 percent of the cover
Planted/Cultivated	Pasture/Hay	Areas of grasses, legumes, or grass-legume mixtures planted for livestock grazing or the production of seed or hay crops.
	Row Crops	Areas used for the production of crops, such as corn, soybeans, vegetables, tobacco, and cotton.
	Small Grains	Areas used for the production of graminoid crops such as wheat, barley, oats, and rice.
	Fallow	Areas used for the production of crops that do not exhibit visible vegetation as a result of being tilled in a management practice that incorporates prescribed alternation between cropping and tillage.
	Urban/Recreational Grasses	Vegetation (primarily grasses) planted in developed settings for recreation, erosion control, or aesthetic purposes. Examples include parks, lawns, golf courses, airport grasses, and industrial site grasses.
Wetlands	Woody Wetlands	Areas where forest or shrubland vegetation accounts for 25-100 percent of the cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.
	Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	Areas where perennial herbaceous vegetation accounts for 75-100 percent of the cover and the soil or substrate is periodically saturated with or covered with water.

Source: <https://archive.usgs.gov/archive/sites/landcover.usgs.gov/classes.php.html#similar>