

## Glossary

**class B waters** – Of the second highest quality, these waters are considered acceptable for fishing, swimming, and other recreational purposes, and, after adequate treatment, for use as water supplies. NHDES has numeric and narrative criteria for these uses. Antidegradation provisions also apply (See [NH RSA 485-A:8](#)).

**conservation easement** – A legal agreement between a landowner and a conservation organization or agency in the form of a deed that permanently protects the land from development.

**habitat fragmentation** – The division of habitat into smaller and less productive pieces, usually by the construction of roads or other barriers to certain wildlife.

**habitat loss** – The destruction of natural areas through clearing of vegetation, filling in of wetlands, creation of impervious surfaces, flooding of uplands from dams, and extreme pollution.

**impervious surface** – Hard-covered surfaces such as pavement and roofs that do not allow water to soak into the soil. Compared to natural surfaces, water runs off more quickly and is usually dirtier. Many studies indicate that no more than 10% of a watershed should consist of impervious surface. (See Center for Watershed Protection, 2003.)

**invasive species** – Non-native plants or animals that are particularly aggressive in out-competing native species, thereby degrading habitat for resident species.

**pervious surface** – Land surfaces that allow precipitation to infiltrate into the soil, e.g., forests, fields, lawns, unpaved driveways, etc.. Certain pavement and concrete can be made to be pervious so that water infiltrates rather than running across the surface.

**riparian** – Relating to or located on or near the banks of a natural watercourse.

**runoff** – The portion of precipitation that does not infiltrate the soil but runs directly off the land into surface waters. Often contains eroded soil or pollutants picked up from paved or other impervious surfaces.

**stormwater** – Precipitation that does not infiltrate the soil, usually used in reference to runoff in developed areas.

**watershed** – The geographic area that drains water into a river, lake, or estuary directly or from tributaries or groundwater. The study of a watershed should include wildlife and human populations, the amount and kind of land development, and the ability of water to flow and of fish to migrate naturally.