

2003 RECOMMENDED WEB SITES FOR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Most practitioners have become very familiar with researching the internet's vast quantity of information with the convenient click of the mouse. In the past several years, the *Journal of Land Use and Environmental Law* has attempted to simplify the overwhelming sea of information through its annual website review. Past reviews have provided outlines on websites focusing on Wetlands law, Oceans and Coastal law, and Endangered Species. This year the *Journal's* review will present an overview of websites on Watershed Management.

A watershed is the land area that drains to a given body of water.¹ Thus, we all live in a watershed. The protection of watersheds is vital as they supply our drinking water, contain critical habitat for plants and animals, and provide recreation.² Watershed Management Programs are intended to protect, manage and restore watersheds. The websites listed below are designed to provide information and tools on Watershed Management so that the public and government officials can make better decisions to help preserve this important resource.

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1. http://www.cwp.org/whats_a_watershed.htm

2. *Id.*

II. WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A. *Federal Government Agencies*

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds / URL: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/>

This is the EPA's main web page on watersheds. This site contains many links to a variety of watershed topics. The major categories include "Intro to Watersheds," "Regulations/Policy," "Watershed Academy," "Watershed Projects," "Watershed Funding," and "Watershed Links." These links provide a lot of useful information including what a watershed approach is, online training in watershed management, information on watershed projects and groups, as well as links to state watershed management programs.

This web site also provides several graphic links including a Watershed Information Network which presents a roadmap to information and services for protecting and preserving water resources. There is also a link to a calendar of national conferences on watershed protection. Another link provides information on how to get involved locally through the EPA's "Adopt Your Watershed" campaign. "Surf Your Watershed" allows you to locate your watershed and learn more about it.

- EPA Region 4 Watersheds and Nonpoint Source Section // URL: <http://www.epa.gov/region4/water/watersheds/index.html>

This page provides information on projects in the Southeast, Region 4, which includes Florida. The EPA's site includes links to all other regions as well. Included is a map of targeted watersheds and basins in Region 4.

- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Conservation Programs // URL: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

There are three programs listed on this webpage that are relevant to Watershed Management. These include "Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention," "Watershed Rehabilitation," and "Emergency Watershed Protection."

"Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention" has links to "Program Information," "Watershed Surveys and Planning," "Success Stories and Reports," "Watershed Status Reports," "National Watershed Manual," and "Watershed Project Locations."

"Watershed Rehabilitation" includes links to "Reinvesting in America's Watersheds," "Dams in Danger," "Keeping Dams Safe," and "Links to Other Sites and Information."

"Emergency Watershed Protection" provides links to "EWP-Floodplain Easement Sign Up Information," "EWP Forms," and "EWP Draft Environmental Impact Statement."

- United States Geological Survey (USGS), Office of Water Quality // URL: <http://water.usgs.gov/owq/>

This site provides coordination in the development of programs that address water quality issues. This includes information on application of techniques for the collection, analysis, and interpretation of water-quality data. There are links to national programs addressing water quality as well as information on the quality of the nation's surface and ground water resources. Some other links on this site include "Publications," "Data," "Labs," "Techniques," "USGS Water Resources," and "Other Sources."

B. Florida Government

- Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), Watershed Management // URL: <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/watersheds/index.htm>

This site's main links include "About Watershed Management," "Surface Water Improvement and Management Program," "Watershed Management's Geographic Information Systems," and "Watershed Monitoring." All of these programs focus on Watershed management in Florida. There are also several links to many different categories of watersheds and watershed management programs including "Bioassessment," "Drinking Water," "Ground Water," "Wastewater," "Water Policy," "Watershed Monitoring," and "Water Reuse."

C. Florida Water Management Districts

All of these sites provide local information on water management issues in each district in Florida.

- Northwest Florida Water Management District // URL: <http://www.state.fl.us/nwfwmd/>
- Southwest Florida Water Management District // URL: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>
- South Florida Water Management District // URL: <http://www.sfwmd.gov>
- St. Johns River Water Management District // URL: <http://sjr.state.fl.us>
- Suwannee River Water Management District // URL: <http://www.srwmd.state.fl.us>

D. Non-governmental Organizations

- Center for Watershed Protection // URL: <http://www.cwp.org/>

This informative, well-designed site provides local governments, activists, and watershed organizations with the technical tools for protecting watersheds. It provides information on what a watershed is, as well as a watershed quiz. This site provides links to its strategy for watershed protection including "watershed planning," "watershed restoration," "stormwater management," "watershed research," "better site design," "education and outreach," and "watershed training."

- River Network // URL: <http://www.rivernetwork.org/>

The purpose of this site is to help people understand, protect and restore rivers and their watersheds by linking them with river information, services and resources. The River Network supports grassroots river and watershed conservation groups. Among the special features of this site are "Resource Library," "Directory of River Groups," "Funding Sources," "Calendar of River Events," "River Jobs," "State-by-State Clean Water Act Info," "Books and newsletters," and a "List of Current River Network Partners."

- The Watershed Management Council // URL: <http://www.watershed.org/>

The Watershed Management Council is a non-profit education organization dedicated to the advancement of the art and science of watershed management. This site provides links to information about the council, how to join the council, and how to sign up to receive the council's newsletter.

- The Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators (ASIWPCA), Watershed Management Program // URL: <http://www.asiwpca.org/programs/mgmt.htm>

The ASIWPCA is an independent organization of State and Interstate water program managers. This site provides information on watershed management, as well as a link to a "Watershed Action Guide" to assist local communities in developing Watershed Management Plans.