



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Campbell Creek Science Center

Watershed Wonders

Module 1 Glossary

confluence: the place where two or more rivers join to form one larger river

erosion: the process of rocks and soil being worn away by wind, water, or ice

estuary: the place where a river meets the ocean

fork: a branch of a river or other body of water

headwaters: small streams and wetlands at the highest end of a watershed

landscape: all the features of an area of land, such as hills, rivers, trees, and buildings

peak: the top of a mountain

ridge: a long, narrow high point of land, often extending from a peak

sediment: solid material, such as rocks and soil, moved from one place to another by water, wind, or ice

tributary: a stream that flows into a larger river or other body of water

valley: a low point between mountains or hills, usually with a river running along the bottom

watershed: an area of land that drains rainwater or snow melt into a river or other body of water

water cycle: the movement of water between lakes, rivers, oceans, the atmosphere, and the land