

Top 10 Things You Should Know About Watersheds

1. Everyone lives in a watershed.
2. Nothing is truly thrown away in the watershed. If oil is dumped down the drain, for example, it goes where all the rainwater goes, into the home of the salmon.
3. Clouds are actually a part of the watershed because they're part of the water cycle.
4. Don't step in a redd. A redd is a spawning area in a stream or river—the place where salmon have laid their eggs. Redds look like a circle or curve of clean gravel between one and three feet long. If you've got wild or naturally spawning salmon in your watershed, you've got redds. From the fall to the spring, it's a lot easier to see these salmon nests. There may be eggs or baby salmon hiding in that gravel and one footstep (or rolling tire) upsets everything for them.
5. If you cannot drink or take a bath in the water because it is not clean, it's not good for the other animals either. What works for most life is what works for human beings.
6. If you really listen, and pay attention to what is around you in the watershed, you'll find answers to many questions you might have. No questions? Spend some time on a hillside or by a stream just observing nature and your observations will likely result in some.
7. Whatever happens upstream affects the land, the salmon, the animals, the plants, and the people downstream.
8. The smallest thing can have the greatest importance. Little bits of pollution or the smallest habitat destruction add onto thousands of others to become major problems. This is called the "cumulative effect." Everything in a natural watershed has a reason, and a place in the natural scheme. Everything has great value—including you!
9. Everyone must work to maintain a healthy watershed. We all have things to do that are useful and important. What we do, though, must be done with both the future and the past in mind. Among the tribes, there has always been a tradition of listening when elders speak. Be respectful and learn all you can from them, because their wisdom has been passed from generation to generation, and it will be your responsibility to convey it to your children and grandchildren. There has also always been a tradition referred to as Seven Generations. It is a principle that reminds us that everything we do must be done in a manner that considers the needs of our descendants for seven generations, and more, to come. If our elders and ancestors have made mistakes, we can learn from them too—just as we can learn from mistakes we make ourselves.
10. The salmon feed us and the water feeds the salmon. That's why it's so important to keep the water in our rivers flowing fresh and clean. We also drink the water. Why would we want to drink water that has been polluted? Remember: In the circle of life, the things we do affect our neighbors. More importantly, we are each a resource to help each other live wholesome, quality lives.

<https://pacificeducationinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Shadow-of-the-Salmon-Guide.pdf>