

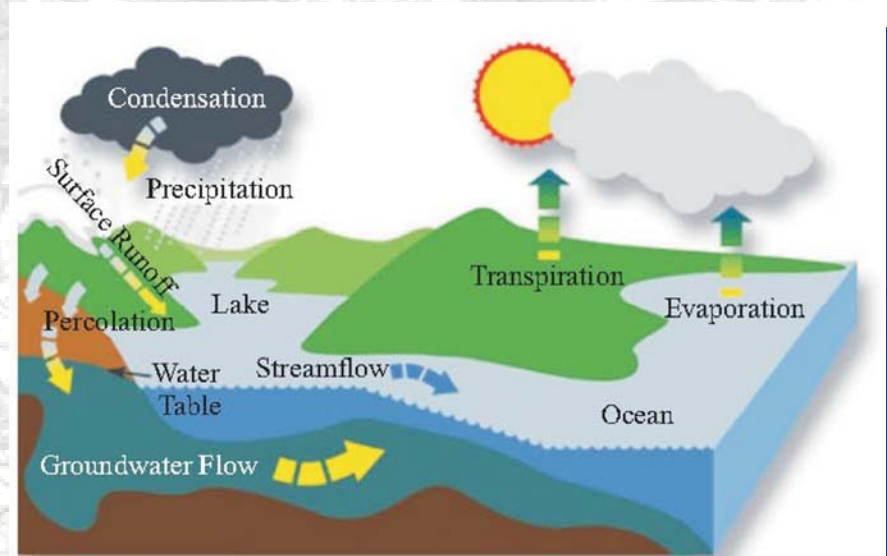
# DISTRICT OF CHETWYND

## PROTECTING THE PINE RIVER WATERSHED

The Pine River watershed is the primary source of water for the District of Chetwynd's residents.

### What is a watershed?

A watershed is "the land area that drains into a stream". A watershed is within a valley and is defined by features of the surrounding local landscape. Precipitation in the form of rain or snow is filtered through the watershed and returns in the form of surface or groundwater.



### Watershed Facts...

- Drainage area of approximately 700,000 ha (one fifth of Vancouver Island).
- Prior to the oil spill in 2000, the Pine River was Chetwynd's only source of water.
- After the spill, groundwater wells were drilled to provide water.
- Today, both the Pine River and groundwater wells provide water to Chetwynd.



### What impacts water quality in the watershed?

Natural processes:

- Excess sedimentation (steep cut banks, landslides)
- Forest health such as the Mountain Pine Beetle Epidemic
- Forest fire activity

Human impacts:

- Sewage or industrial outfalls
- Storm water runoff
- Sedimentation from activities such as road building and urban development
- Nutrients from animal waste and fertilizers
- Toxins including pesticides

### Help protect your watershed...

- Be a responsible consumer: read labels and choose environmentally friendly products whenever possible.
- Learn to conserve water and teach others to do the same.
- Avoid dumping waste products such as oil, antifreeze, and detergents into storm drains.
- Reduce water consumption by sweeping walkways and driveways.
- Wash vehicles over gravel or grassy areas and use biodegradable, phosphate free products.
- Drain your hot tub slowly onto your lawn, not into storm drains.
- Plant native species that require less water and are well adapted to your local environment.
- Compost yard and kitchen waste. Compost will benefit your garden and is a good alternative to chemical fertilizers.



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