

Water Facts from The Freshwater Trust

Availability:

- More than half the waterways in the United States are considered impaired under the Clean Water Act.
- Of the 71% of water on Earth, less than 2% is fresh and accessible.
- Over the last 50 years, the global population has more than doubled. By 2025, two-thirds of the world's population may face water shortages.
- By 2030, the global demand for water is expected to grow by 50%.
- There is more water in our atmosphere than in all of our rivers combined.

Drinking Water:

- Tests of nearly 2,000 water suppliers in the United States serving over 6 million people in all 50 states found excessive and harmful amounts of lead.
- One third of what the world spends on bottled water in one year could pay for projects providing water to everyone in need.

Fish & Wildlife:

- More than 100,000 species rely on freshwater ecosystems.
- 90% of the global freshwater catch comes from ecosystems that are stressed by “above average” pollution, dam building, and invasive species.
- More than 20% of the world's known freshwater fish species have become extinct.



Economy:

- In 2016, the World Economic Forum declared water crisis to be the top global risk to society over the next decade.
- 4/5 large cities can improve water quality through upstream forest protection, reforestation and improved agricultural practices.
- \$38 billion is spent every year on freshwater health and restoration in the U.S.
- More than \$450 billion in foods, fiber, manufactured goods and tourism depend on watersheds.
- Half of the world's workers, 1.5 billion people, are in water related sectors.

Agriculture:

- **Pivot irrigation** uses half as much water as flood irrigation does through efficient and precise delivery.
- Leasing water rights for environmental purposes not only conserves water, it reduces thousands of pounds of sediment and nutrients from entering streams per year.



Watershed health:

- **Watersheds** with intact natural land cover and soil resources are capable of sequestering carbon, thereby offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.
- Intact floodplains and riparian areas enable healthy watersheds to be better adapted to more extreme weather patterns and changes in precipitation associated with climate change.
- 1 in 6 gallons of water leak from utility pipes before reaching customers in the United States.



Vegetation:

- Streamside vegetation can **decrease solar load** by millions of kilocalories a day and prevent hundreds of pounds of harmful chemicals like **phosphorus** and **nitrogen** per year from entering rivers and streams.
- One mile of streamside vegetation can block up to 70,000 lbs of **sediment** from entering the stream per year.

Wastewater:

- The average American uses about 160 gallons of water per day, the average European uses about 50 gallons of water per day, and the average resident of sub-Saharan Africa uses 2 to 5 gallons of water per day.
- Less than 3% of wastewater is currently recycled.

