Unit 1: Human Impact: Cause and Effect

Terms and Definitions you need to know:

**Acid Precipitation:** Precipitation, such as rain, sleet, or snow that contains a high

concentration of acids, often because of the pollution of the atmosphere.

**Agriculture:** The raising of crops and livestock for food or for other products that are useful to humans.

**Air Pollution:** The contamination of the atmosphere by the introduction of pollutants from human and natural resources.

**Natural Resource:** Any natural material that is used by humans.

**Non-Point Source Pollution:** Pollution that comes from many sources rather than from a single specific cite.

**Ozone:** A gas molecule that is made up of three oxygen atoms.

**Particulates:** Fine particles that are suspended in the atmosphere and that are

associated with air pollution.

**Aquaculture:** The raising of aquatic plants and animals for human use or consumption.

**Biomaginification:** The accumulation of pollutants at successive levels of the food chain.

**Deforestation:** The process of clearing forests.

**Depletion:** A reduction in the number or quantity of something.

**Desalination:** A process from removing salt from ocean water.

**Equation:** A statement that the values of two mathematical expressions are equal.

**Eutrophication:** Excessive richness of nutrients in a lake or other body of water,

frequently due to runoff from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life and death of animal life from lack of oxygen.

**Forestry:** The science or practice of planting, managing, and caring for forests.

**Impaired Water:** Impaired waters means those water bodies or water body segments that are not fully supporting or are partially supporting of the fishable and swimmable goals of the Clean Water Act.

**Leachate:** A liquid that has passed through solid waste and has extracted dissolved or suspended materials from that waste, such as pesticides in the soil.

**Mining:** The extraction of valuable minerals or other geological materials from the earth usually from an orebody, lode, vein, seam, reef or placer deposits.

**Point-Source Pollution:** Pollution that comes from a specific site.

**Pollution:** An undesirable change in the natural environment that is caused by the introduction of substances that are harmful to living organisms or by excessive wastes, heat, noise, or radiation.

**Rural:** Describes an area of open land that is often used for farming

**Scrubber:** A machine that moves gases through a spray of water that dissolves many pollutants.

**Smog:** Urban air pollution composed of a mixture of smoke and fog produced from industrial pollutants and burning fuels.

**Temperature Inversion:** The atmospheric condition in which warm air traps cooler air near Earth’s surface.

**Thermal Pollution:** A temperature increase in a body of water that is caused by human activity and that has a harmful effect on water quality and on the ability of that body of water to support life.

**Urban:** Describes an area that contains a city.

**Urbanization:** An increase in the ratio or density of people living in urban areas rather than in rural areas.

**Wastewater:** Water that contains wastes from homes or industry.

**Water Pollution:** Contamination of water by waste matter or other material that is harmful to organisms that are exposed to the water.