

# WATER CHALLENGES IN THE BOREAL



## QUICK STATS

### DID YOU KNOW?

- The Boreal Zone stretches across 1.5 Billion acres globally
- The boreal zone has 25% of the world's wetlands
- Canada alone is home to 28% of the boreal zone
- The boreal forest is the forest type that stores the most carbon

## DEFINITION

### WHAT IS BOREAL?

*They're defined as forests growing in high-latitude environments where freezing temps occur for 6-8 months and in which trees are capable of reaching a min height of 5 m. Forest is coniferous tree species like pine, spruce and fir with some broadleaf species such as poplar and birch.*



#### SOIL

The boreal zone has easily eroded soil! This means it is loose and can be moved many ways easily. Different kinds of erosion like wind, root action and water can move soil into our waterbodies which can have negative effects on water quality! Added soil to water makes it brown and hard for fish to navigate. It can also bring nutrients and pollution to the water and make it warmer!



#### SPECIES

80% of North American waterfowl rely on the boreal forest! But that's not all! Many other species like plants, mammals, insects and amphibians all rely on the boreal forest, not to mention humans! Every species uses a part of the boreal to survive. Even small scale changes can have big impacts on the ecosystem and its function!



#### ACTIVITY

What we do on the landscape in and around the boreal has impacts! Using too many fertilizers, overharvesting natural resources, spills and pollution and more have negative effects on the boreal system! This is why it is important to protect the environment and to follow the best management practices available at all times!