

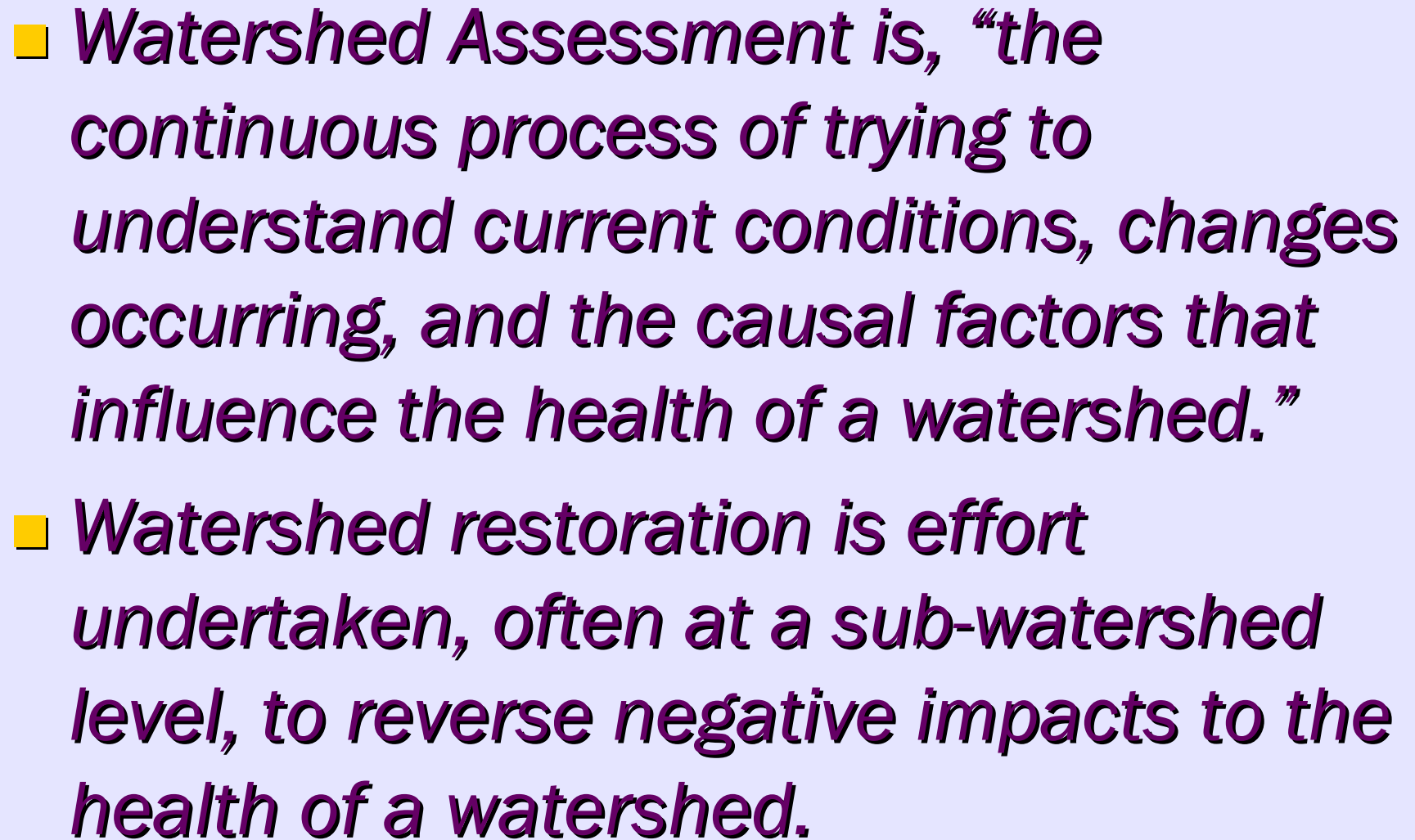
The Role of Volunteer Monitoring in Meeting Watershed Assessment and Restoration Goals

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- *Watershed Assessment is, “the continuous process of trying to understand current conditions, changes occurring, and the causal factors that influence the health of a watershed.”*
 - *Watershed restoration is effort undertaken, often at a sub-watershed level, to reverse negative impacts to the health of a watershed.*

Watershed restoration and protection efforts are needed to address a variety of water quality and water resource concerns such as achievement of Total Maximum Daily Loads, protection of public water supply reservoirs, and protection or restoration of wetland and riparian habitats.

Areas Extension is uniquely positioned to address

Through trained volunteers, citizen water quality monitoring programs:

- Educate local residents about the science behind water quality and watershed protection;
- Provide valuable data to help target areas for restoration and post-restoration information for assessing whether restoration was effective;
- Engage the community, increase participation in restoration efforts, and ensure that restored areas are maintained or protected; and
- Assist researchers by monitoring innovative methods of environmental restoration.

NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program

- Lake Chocorua, volunteers documented a water quality decline due to highway runoff.
- Multi-agency taskforce, including Extension, the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and state agencies, collaborated to design and implement a series of Best Management Practices to mitigate the road runoff.
- NHLLMP Post implementation monitoring showed an 84 to 92 percent reduction in phosphorus loads to the lake from highway sources.

URI Watershed Watch Program

