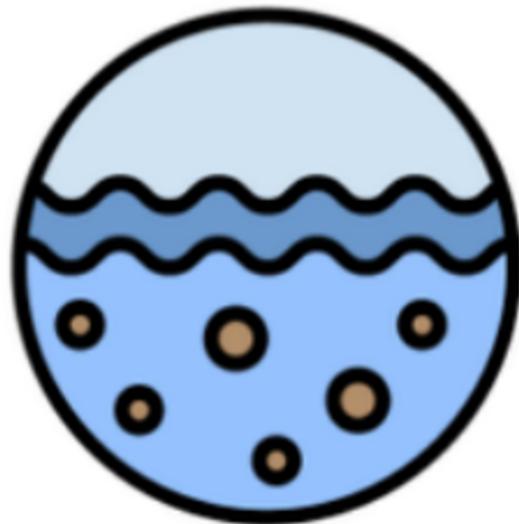




A massive wildfire comes through that not only burns trees and shrubs but also burns the soil so that it destroys the binding ability of those soils, making the soil unable to resist runoff during a major rainstorm.



When it rains, the burned soil slides into rivers and reservoirs



The sediment clouds water and depletes oxygen levels, which is detrimental to plants, fish and amphibians, and must be filtered out at high cost before humans can use it.