

Vocabulary for Erosion Unit

Berm: a raised bank or terrace along the shoreline of the ocean or a river; also an artificial ridge or bank.

Barrier island: a long narrow island lying parallel and close to the mainland, protecting, or buffering, the mainland from erosion and storms.

Beach profile: a side-view, or cross-section of the form and slope of a beach, measured perpendicular to the beach from the upper beach edge to the waterline.

Buffer: As a verb: to lessen or moderate the impact of something. As a noun in the context of erosion control, a device or pieces of material for reducing shock or damage due to contact of erosion agents.

Deposition: The processes by which rocks, soil, and sand being carried from one location on the Earth's surface accumulate or accrete at a different location as a result of the force of gravity being larger than the energy moving the eroding materials.

Erosion: The processes by which natural agents remove rocks, soil, and sand from one location on the Earth's surface and move it to a different location.

Fetch: the area over which winds blow to create waves.

Longshore transport: the process responsible for the movement of sand and sediment along the coastline, in contrast to processes that deposit sand and sediment on beaches from offshore. An example of a longshore transport process is a prevailing current and wind pattern.

Mitigation: the action of reducing the severity, seriousness, or painfulness of something. In disaster and emergency planning and response, mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

Risk Mitigation Planning: the process of developing options and actions to enhance opportunities and reduce threats to human health and safety and to property and critical community facilities.

Spit: A coastal landform that often forms at the mouth of streams as a result of longshore transport.

Storm surge: a rising of the sea as a result of atmospheric pressure changes and wind associated with a storm. Storm surges result in coastal flooding further inland than the reach of the tides.