

WATERSHED HYDROLOGICAL RESPONSE TO CHANGES IN LAND USE/LAND COVERS PATTERNS OF RIVER BASIN: A REVIEW

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ABSTRACT

Land is a subset of the natural resources like water and vegetation on the earth. An imbalance among these natural resources due to human intervention brings an impact of one on another. The changes in Land use/cover (LU/C) patterns become important issues these days, considering global dynamics and their responses to environmental and socio-economic drivers. Especially in fast changing developing countries, it is a scientific challenge to predict land use changes and their effects on water availability, flood risk and erosion rates. To address these issues, catchment models are to deal with land use dynamics. An attempt has been made in this paper to study the land use/land cover changes that occur in watersheds and their effects on the hydrological system of a river basin. Also the hydrological models that are used to model impact of Land use/cover changes on water resources are identified.

KEYWORDS: Watershed, Land Use/Land Cover, Hydrological Model, Watershed Hydrology