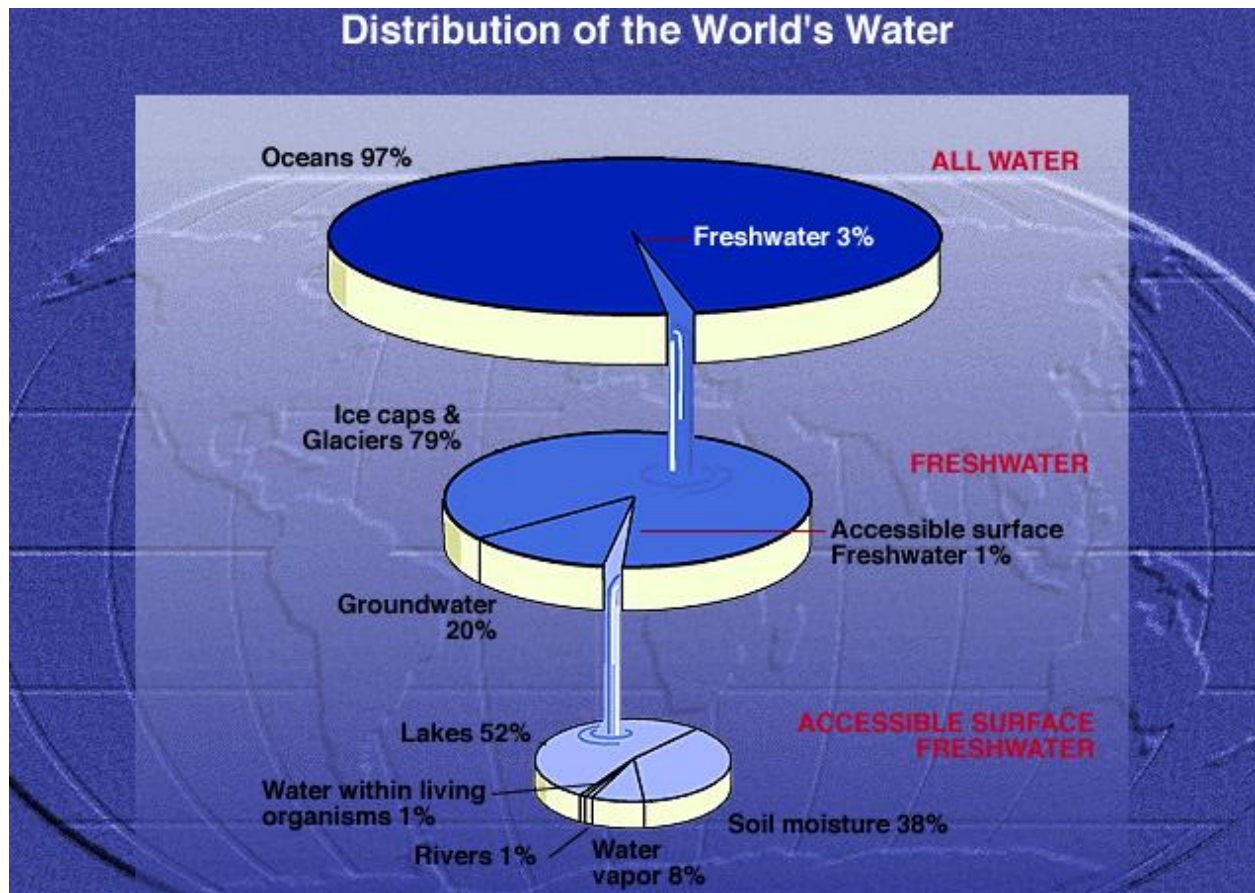


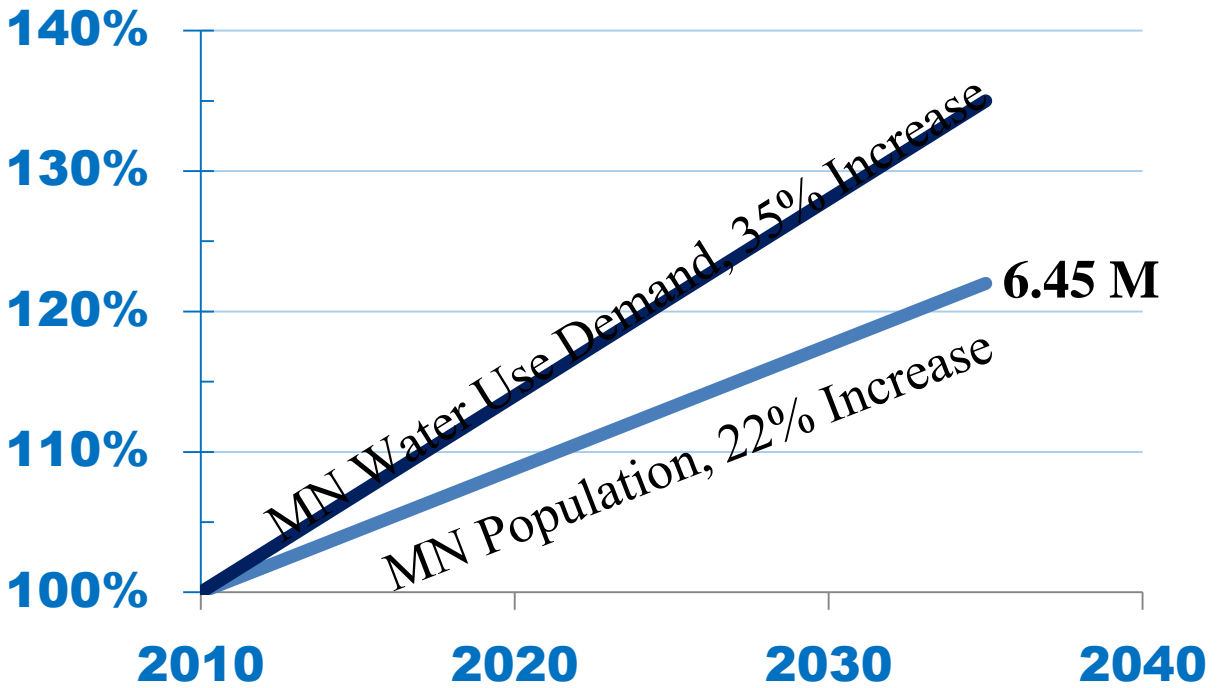
Stormwater 101- The Big Picture

We have a finite amount of water in the globe, with less than 0.3% of it available as water we can access for human use.



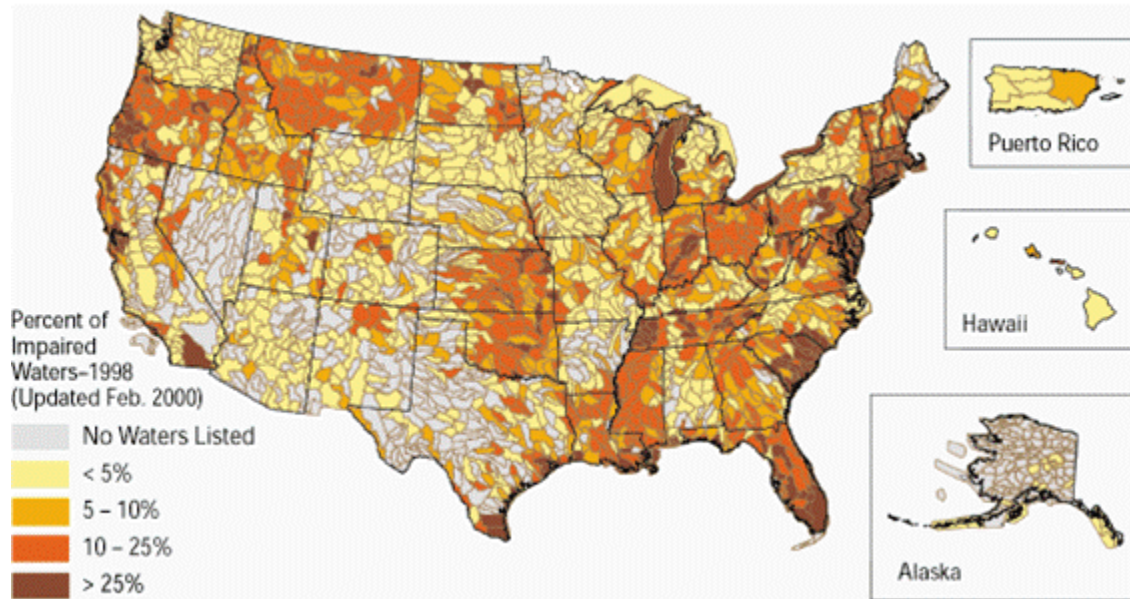
And this finite amount of water faces 3 main challenges:

1. Increasing population, meaning increased demand for a limited supply. Demand is actually increasing faster than population. That means, there are not only more people using water, but each person is using more water each year than historical averages.

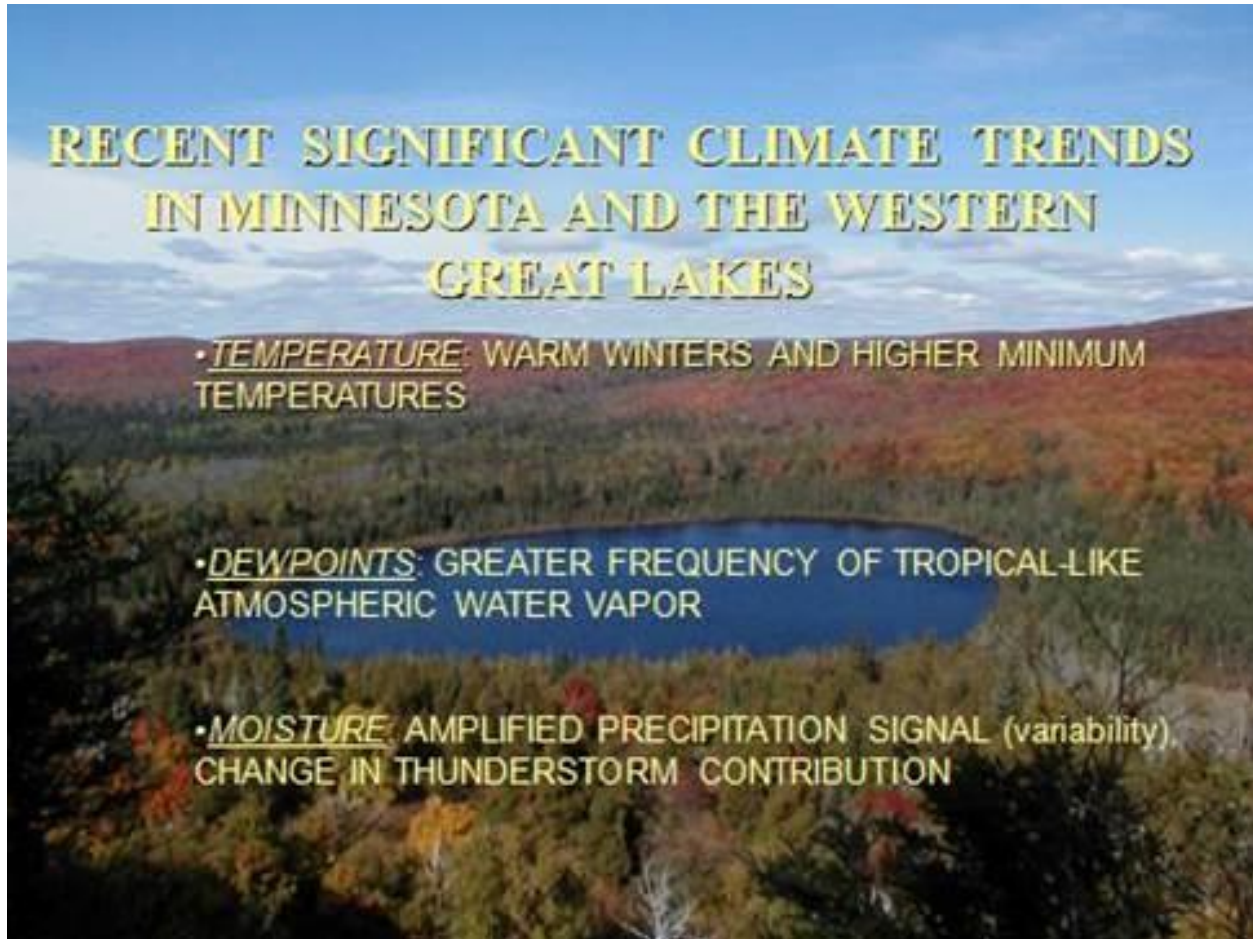


3. Steady degradation of water quality

The diagram below shows impaired watersheds by containing impaired water bodies. (From the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's 1998 list of impaired water, USEPA, 2000).



5. A changing climate that is shifting precipitation patterns and changing stream flows



So the take away message from this module is that we need manage and protect clean water. We have no Plan B for clean water.

Learning Activity

In the Discussion Forum for this module and this topic, write a short reflection on the big ideas from this module that you think are important. What would you most want your friends or neighbors to know about fresh water, and the challenges we face?