Environmental Science Midterm Vocabulary List

**Unit 2: The Four Spheres**

Biosphere

Lithosphere

Atmosphere

Hydrosphere

Ozone Layer

Air Pressure

Elevation

Soil Horizons

Silt

Sand

Clay

Loam

Humus

Compost

Erosion

Troposphere

Mesosphere

Stratosphere

Thermosphere

Biomes

Reservoir

Evaporation

Transpiration

Condensation

Runoff

Precipitation

Sublimation

Groundwater

Infiltration

**Unit 3: Ecology**

**Ecosystem**

**Community**

**Population**

**Species**

Autotroph

Heterotroph

Ecological Niche

Parasitism

Commensalism

Mutualism

Competitive Exclusion Principle

Pyramid of Numbers

Pyramid of Energy

Decomposer

Biotic Factors

Abiotic Factors

Predation

Herbivores

Carnivores

Omnivores

Density Dependent

Limiting Factor

Density Independent Limiting Factor

Population Growth

Logistic Growth

 Linear Growth

 Carrying Capacity

 Immigration

 Emigration

Primary Succession

 Secondary Succession

 Keystone Species

**Unit 4: Biodiversity and Conservation**

Biodiversity

 Species richness

 Species abundance

Invasive Species

Biological control

 Chemical control

 Physical Control

 Prevention

Poaching

 Deforestation

 ecological restoration

ecological rehabilitation

 ecological preservation

 in situ remediation

ex situ remediation

**Unit 5: Climate Change**

Feedback Loops

 Greenhouse Gases

 The Greenhouse Effect

 Climate Proxies

 The Carbon Cycle

 Effects of Global Warming

 Ocean Acidification

The Keystone Pipeline

**Review Questions**

1. How is evaporation different from transpiration?
2. What is the relationship between air pressure and elevation? (hint: write it as a trend)
3. What is loam and why is it important?
4. How do the top horizons form in soil?
5. What is the difference between sublimation and condensation?
6. Which type of population growth is characteristic of an S shaped curve?
7. List three density dependent limiting factors and three density independent limiting factors.