

HELP REDUCE NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION

- Avoid creating additional runoff by making sure you only irrigate the amount needed and do not leave hoses running when washing the car or watering the lawn.
- Reduce impervious surfaces around homes to allow runoff to soak into the ground and be naturally filtered by plants and soil.
- Use native vegetation for landscaping and leave plants in place in the canyons, especially around streams.
- Properly dispose of all trash and chemicals from your home.
- If you have pets, pick up and throw away their waste.
- Keep livestock out of waterways by leaving fences in place.
- Maintain your car so that fluids do not leak onto the ground.
- Don't create new trails in the canyons with off road vehicles.

Looking for more information on NPS?

<https://www.epa.gov/nps>

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/pollution/o3pointsource.html>

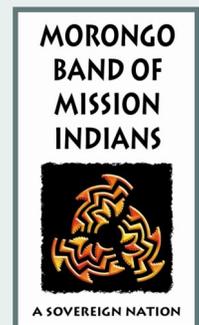
<https://cacoastkeeper.org/your-water/polluted-runoff/>

Morongo Band of Mission Indians
Tribal Water Program

12700 Pumarra Road
Banning, CA 92220
Phone: 951-7755-5197
E-mail: kmiller@morongo-nsn.gov

What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

How polluted runoff is harming water quality and what you can do to stop it!



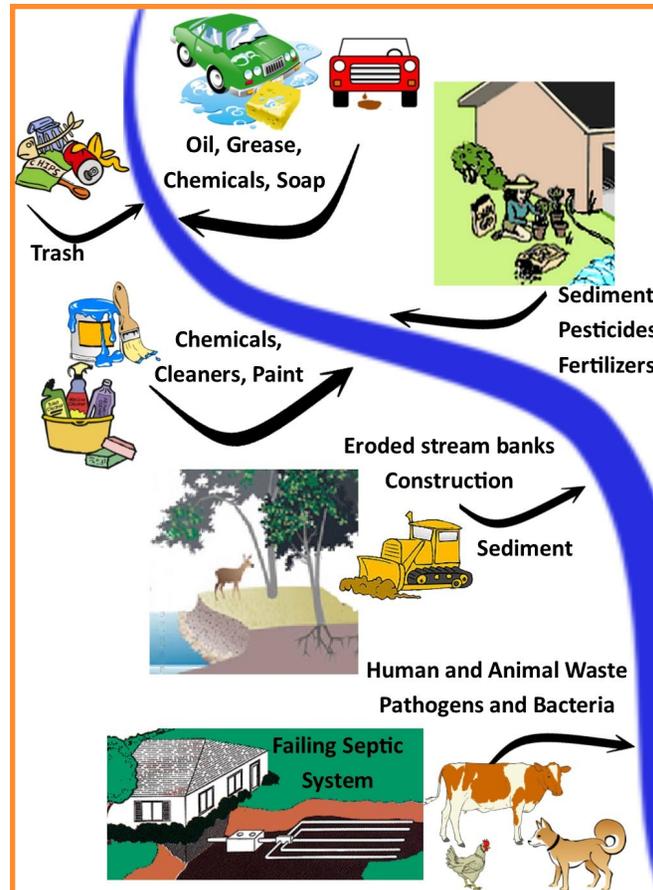
Nonpoint source pollution (NPS), unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many diffuse sources.

The majority of pollution in water today comes from nonpoint source pollution. Pipes, factories, mines, and other pollution sources that are easily identifiable are considered point sources. Nonpoint source pollution is usually carried into waterbodies through runoff that picks up pollution on its way to streams and lakes. Runoff can be created by rain, snow melt, a broken water pipe, too much lawn irrigation, or anything that outputs more water than can be quickly absorbed into the ground. Paved surfaces and parking lots make the problem worse by not allowing the water to infiltrate the soil and speeding up the runoff.

LOCAL SOURCES

On Morongo, the primary type of pollution in our streams is nonpoint source. Common sources in our area can include:

- livestock;
- stream bank and dirt road erosion;
- construction;
- trash; and
- transportation or automobile related sources.



POLLUTION SOURCES & TYPES

Pollutants in NPS include oil, animal waste, pesticides, fertilizer, and sediment that are left on the ground naturally or from human activity. These substances can have many harmful effects on waterbodies and aquatic ecosystems. Chemicals and trash can be toxic to plants and organisms in the stream. Fertilizer and animal waste contribute nutrients that can create a problem by promoting excess algal growth. These products also carry pathogens and bacteria that can make it unsafe to swim in or ingest the water. Sediment can block out sunlight, change the stream channel, and carry pollutants with it into the water.

While NPS can significantly affect waters, it is hard to clean up. The small amounts from many individual sources and the fact that they can be transported a long distance mean that identifying the source and stopping it is difficult. Raising awareness and preventing NPS is the most effective way to address this pollution.