

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

There are many ways in which the general public can help to reduce nonpoint source pollution. Some ways are:

- Manage animal waste to minimize contamination of surface water and ground water.
- Protect drinking water by using less pesticides and fertilizers.
- Reduce soil erosion by using conservation practices and other applicable best management practices.
- Use planned grazing systems on pasture and rangeland.
- Dispose of pesticides, containers, and tank rinsate in an approved manner.
- Use proper logging and erosion control practices on your forest lands by ensuring proper construction, maintenance, and closure of logging roads and skid trails.
- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves, and debris out of street gutters and storm drains. These outlets drain directly to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly, not in storm sewers or drains. If your community does not already have a program for collecting household hazardous wastes, ask your local government to establish one.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

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Nonpoint Source
PROGRAM



CONTROLLING
SOIL EROSION BY
PLANTING GROUND
COVER



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WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS), unlike pollution from industrial and sewage treatment plants, comes from many sources. Nonpoint source pollution is caused by rainfall runoff moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants. The pollutants are deposited them into bayous, rivers, lakes, wetlands, coastal waters, and even our underground sources of drinking water. These pollutants can include, but are not limited to:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas;
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff;
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, sand and gravel mines, and eroding streambanks;
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes, and faulty septic systems.

Atmospheric deposition and hydromodification are also sources of nonpoint source pollution.

Potential Sources of NPS Pollution:

Agricultural runoff, urban stormwater runoff, forestry, septic systems, hydromodification, construction, sand and gravel mining.

NPS PROGRAM STRATEGIES

DEQ water quality data indicates that one-half to three-quarters of Louisiana's rivers, lakes, and other water bodies are affected in some way by NPS pollution. In an effort to reduce Nonpoint pollution and improve water quality, DEQ coordinates a NPS Management Program throughout the state aimed at reducing the sediments, nutrients, pesticides, and bacteria that contaminate the state's waters. The two strategies that have been utilized by the NPS Management Program are:

Statewide Implementation

Watershed Implementation

The Statewide Implementation Strategy is focused on categories of land-use activities in Louisiana known to contribute nonpoint source pollution. The DEQ NPS Program works cooperatively and in partnerships with various entities throughout the state to develop strategies to address statewide NPS pollution. Such strategies can include, or be in combination with, environmental awareness, education, demonstration, and implementation of best management practices (BMPs).

The term "best management practices" describes any practice or technique that reduces pollutants picked up by runoff or reduces the amount of pollutants in the runoff before it gets to a body of water for contamination. BMPs are designed to reduce pollutants such as sediments, nutrients, heavy metals, bacteria, pesticides, or any form of stormwater pollutants in runoff.

The Watershed Implementation Strategy is a more focused approach for addressing NPS pollution problems related to a particular waterway or watershed. The DEQ NPS Program develops watershed implementation plans for "impaired" waterways, which describes the particular watershed, its specific land uses, and the best management practices (BMPs) recommended for addressing the NPS pollution.

THE SOLUTION

The key to addressing this problem is prevention through planning and coordination, education, and source control. Reducing the effects of nonpoint source pollution requires reducing the amount of polluted runoff and improving the quality of water that runs off the land. Nonpoint source pollution can be managed most effectively at the source by implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) to eliminate or minimize polluted runoff. Alternatively, NPS can be managed through controls built into the path of runoff, such as sedimentation ponds or wetland detention systems that slow, settle, infiltrate or filter the runoff.



SEDIMENT FROM IMPROPERLY MANAGED FORESTS AND STREAMBANKS



RUST FROM URBAN RUNOFF



HYDROMODIFICATION

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF AND SEDIMENT FROM IMPROPERLY MANAGED CROPS

