WHO CAN HELP

THE FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT

FCD can help local landowners implement conservation practices to reduce NPS pollution. In partnership with many other organizations, FCD hopes to help local landowners better understand the effect NPS pollution has on waterways and how they can help reduce the effects.

The Flathead Conservation District…

- ***Facilitates the purchase of seedlings for conservation purposes, including erosion control and riparian buffers.***
- ***Provides financial assistance for conservation practices through its Cost-Share program.***
- ***Conducts outreach to landowners through workshops and special events***

Please visit
www.flatheadcd.org
for more information on FCD programs.

LEARN MORE

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?

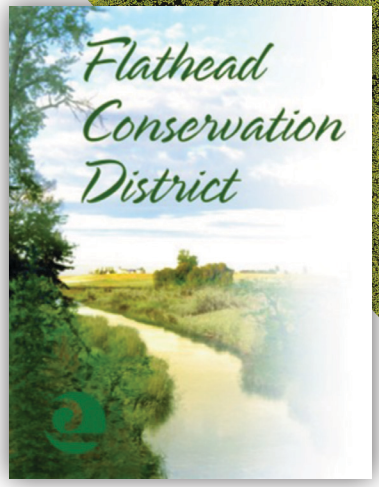
Please visit our website
www.flatheadcd.org
for more information about NPS pollution and what you can do to help keep Flathead Valley's water clean!

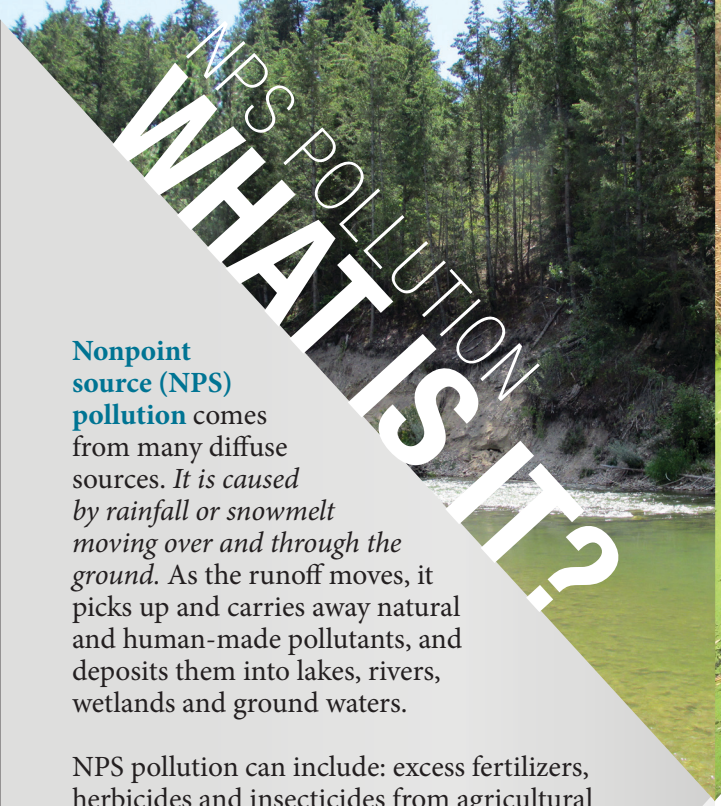
The following links can also provide more information about this topic:

- ***www.epa.gov/polluted-runoff-nonpoint-source-pollution***
- ***sourcewatercollaborative.org/infographic/***
- ***www.flatheadlakers.org/index.php?page=bmp-s-tool-box***

FLATHEAD CONSERVATION DISTRICT
406-752-4220 • www.flatheadcd.org
Locally-Led Conservation Since 1945

NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION





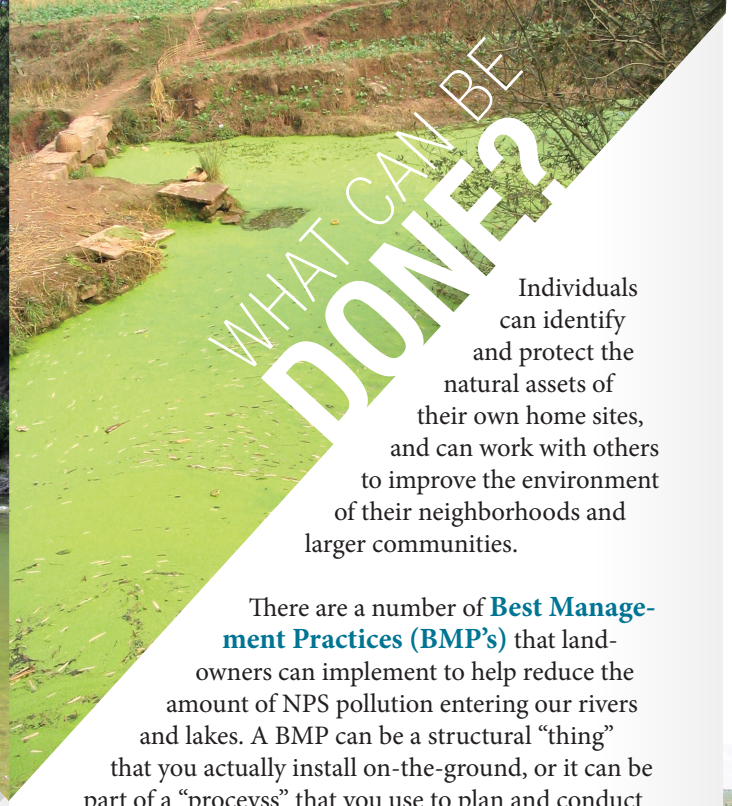
NPS POLLUTION WHAT IS IT?

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution comes from many diffuse sources. *It is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground.* As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, and deposits them into lakes, rivers, wetlands and ground waters.

NPS pollution can include: excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural fields or private lawns; oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff; sediment from eroding streambanks, improperly managed construction sites and forest lands; bacteria and nutrients from livestock and faulty septic systems; and raised water temperatures due to lack of riparian vegetation for shade and atmospheric deposition.

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

NPS pollution is one of the leading causes of water quality problems in Montana and it is difficult to assess and control since it comes from many different sources. Though it can be difficult to quantify and mitigate the effects, we know that these pollutants can be harmful to drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Individuals can identify and protect the natural assets of their own home sites, and can work with others to improve the environment of their neighborhoods and larger communities.

There are a number of **Best Management Practices (BMP's)** that landowners can implement to help reduce the amount of NPS pollution entering our rivers and lakes. A BMP can be a structural "thing" that you actually install on-the-ground, or it can be part of a "procevss" that you use to plan and conduct conservation efforts.

The largest sources of NPS pollution in Flathead Valley's rivers and lakes come from sediment, nutrient and temperature pollution. The following list includes a few BMP's that private landowners and ranchers/farmers can implement to help reduce the amount of NPS pollution entering our rivers and lakes.

1. ***Using less or no fertilizer on lawns.***
2. ***Observe proper timing and placement of fertilizer or pesticides on agricultural fields***
3. ***Leave a vegetative buffer (riparian area) between your lawn or field and the stream.***
4. ***Establish woody riparian vegetation along streambanks***
5. ***Reduce water usage on lawns during the summer months or during the hottest parts of the day***
6. ***Maintain septic systems with regular inspections and cleanouts***
7. ***Limit livestock access to streams (fencing, grazing management plans)***
8. ***Install water gaps or hardened crossings for livestock access to stream***
9. ***Repair or replace failing irrigation structures***

A **Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP)** is a tool that can be used to reduce NPS pollution at broader spatial or temporal scales. This is a document that provides a framework for managing, protecting, and restoring Montana's water resources by identifying the NPS pollution issues in the watershed and identifying where the issues lie and how we hope to mitigate them.

The FCD is collaborating with numerous organizations throughout the Valley to complete a WRP for the Flathead-Stillwater area in 2016. This document will not only provide new funding sources to use to get more on-the ground projects going, but will promote awareness about NPS pollution and what the community can do to help as a whole.