What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?

Introduction to Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution

- NPS pollution is responsible for more than half of the nation's remaining water quality problems.
- The cumulative impact from many nonpoint sources degrades water quality.

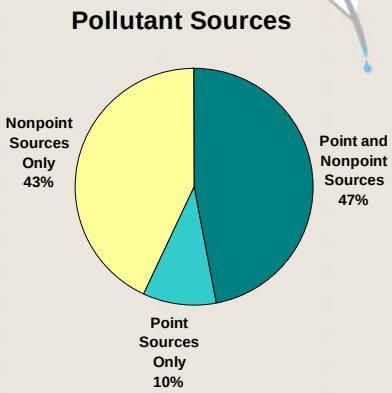
Definition of NPS Pollution

- Rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, or the ocean or introduces them into ground water.

Extent of NPS

Nationally . . .

- 47% combination of point and nonpoint sources
- 43% nonpoint sources only
- 10% point sources only



Major Categories/Sources of NPS Pollution

- Agriculture
- Unrestricted livestock grazing
- Poor siting and design of roads
- Forestry
- Hydromodification
- Urban runoff
- Abandoned mines
- Faulty septic systems
- Construction activities
- Atmospheric deposition

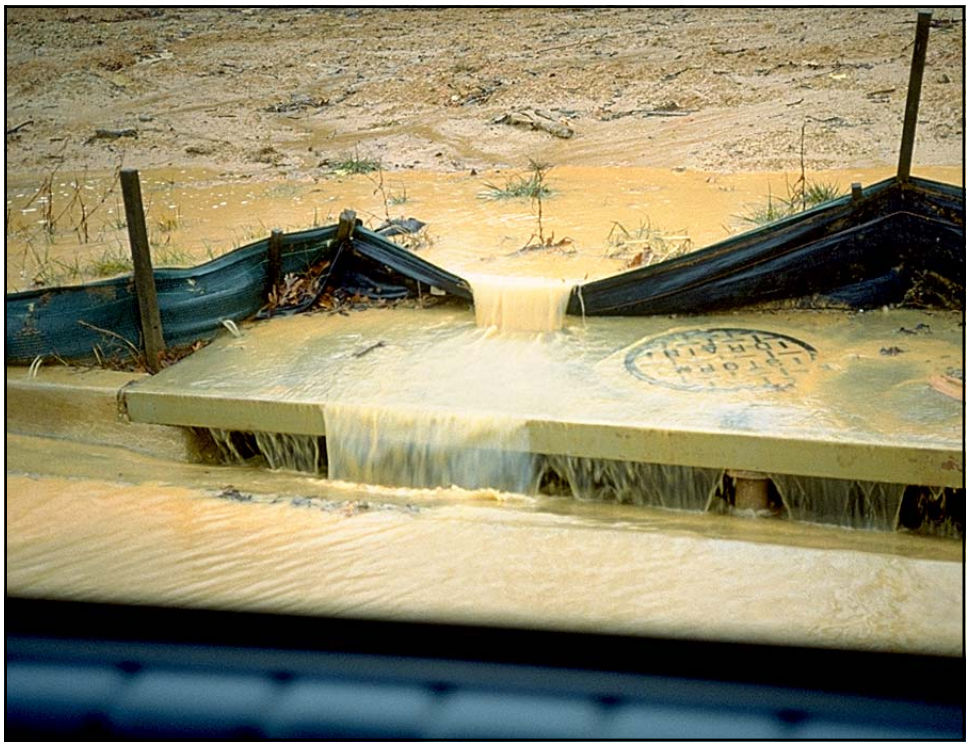
Definition of Sub-Category of NPS

- Provide more specific information on NPS pollution in an area:
  - # of linear miles of eroded streambank needing remediation
  - # of miles of fencing to implement to prevent livestock access to a waterbody
  - # of acres of Tamarisk to remove

Major NPS Pollutants Affecting Waterbodies

LAKES	*WETLANDS*	*STREAMS/RIVERS*
NUTRIENTS	**SEDIMENTS**	**PATHOGENS**
METALS	**FLOW ALTERATION**	**SEDIMENTS**
SEDIMENTS	**NUTRIENTS**	**HABITAT ALTERATION**
DISSOLVED OXYGEN	**HABITAT ALTERATION**	**DISSOLVED OXYGEN**

Source: USEPA. 2000. *National Water Quality Inventory: 1998. Report to Congress*. EPA-841-R-00-001. <http:\\www.epa.gov\305b>



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