

Non Point Source Pollution Effects You Too!

Non-point source pollution (NPS): 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, finally depositing them into the lake.

Big Bear Lake is presently included on the USEPA's 303 (d) list of impaired water bodies. The excessive sediments in the lake are due to NPS.

When practicing good conservation, always remember **NO NPS**:

Noxious chemicals can be found in unlikely places. A lot of household cleaning products, even dish soap, contains chemicals that poison the stormdrains, streams, and ocean. Examples of NPS are excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides; Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from urban runoff and energy production; and sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding streambanks.

Deans and beaches are affected by everything upstream. Although it may seem like we are a long way from the beach, everything we do here in the mountains and valleys effect everything else.

Never litter. Litter comes in all shapes and sizes. Even something as small as a 6-pack plastic wrapper can have devastating effects on marine life. People dump more than 14 billion pounds of garbage each year into the world's oceans. When ever your out and about be it in your neighborhood or around town always discard your trash, including cigarette butts, in recycling or trash receptacles.

Pick up after your dog. Pet waste is another pollutant that greatly contributes to our polluted waterways. Decayed pet waste seeps into the ground, sending E. coli, a bacteria that lives in the intestines of warm-blooded animals, and potential pathogens into the ground water and eventually waterways.

Stay on designated trails. Hiking, biking, and off-roading creates erosion in unkept areas. This is why it is important to stick to the designated trails placed by city officials. The excessive amount of sediment currently in Big Bear Lake is due to NPS from a variety of sources including unauthorized trails.

Organizations such as the East Valley Resource Conservation District are doing projects to help correct this situation. The project is in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Big Bear Municipal Water District, the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the City of Big Bear Lake. The restoration site will take place on the abandoned Snow Forest Ski Area and water quality sampling will be conducted on Knickerbocker Creek.

For more information about this project, contact Jennifer Ares at (909) 799-7407 x102. This flyer was produced by East Valley Resource Conservation District through funds from the State Water Resources Control Board.

