

For more information about ways to prevent polluted runoff, contact

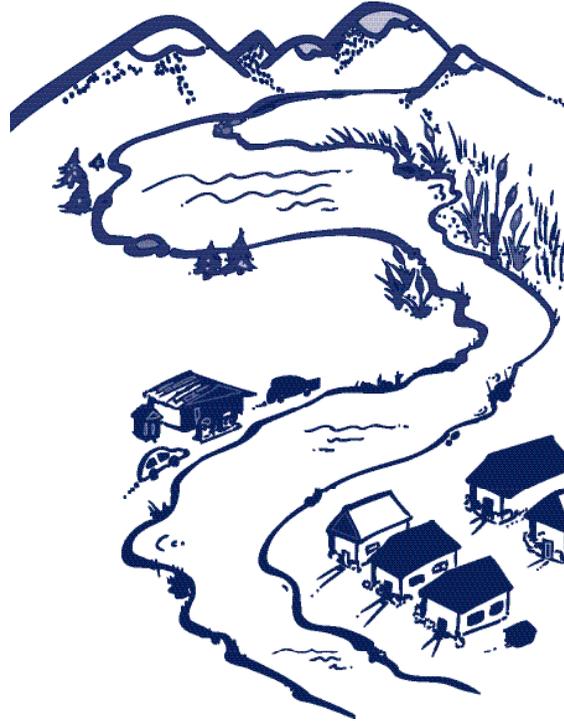
The Colorado Water Protection Project

www.ourwater.org

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Protect Our Watersheds

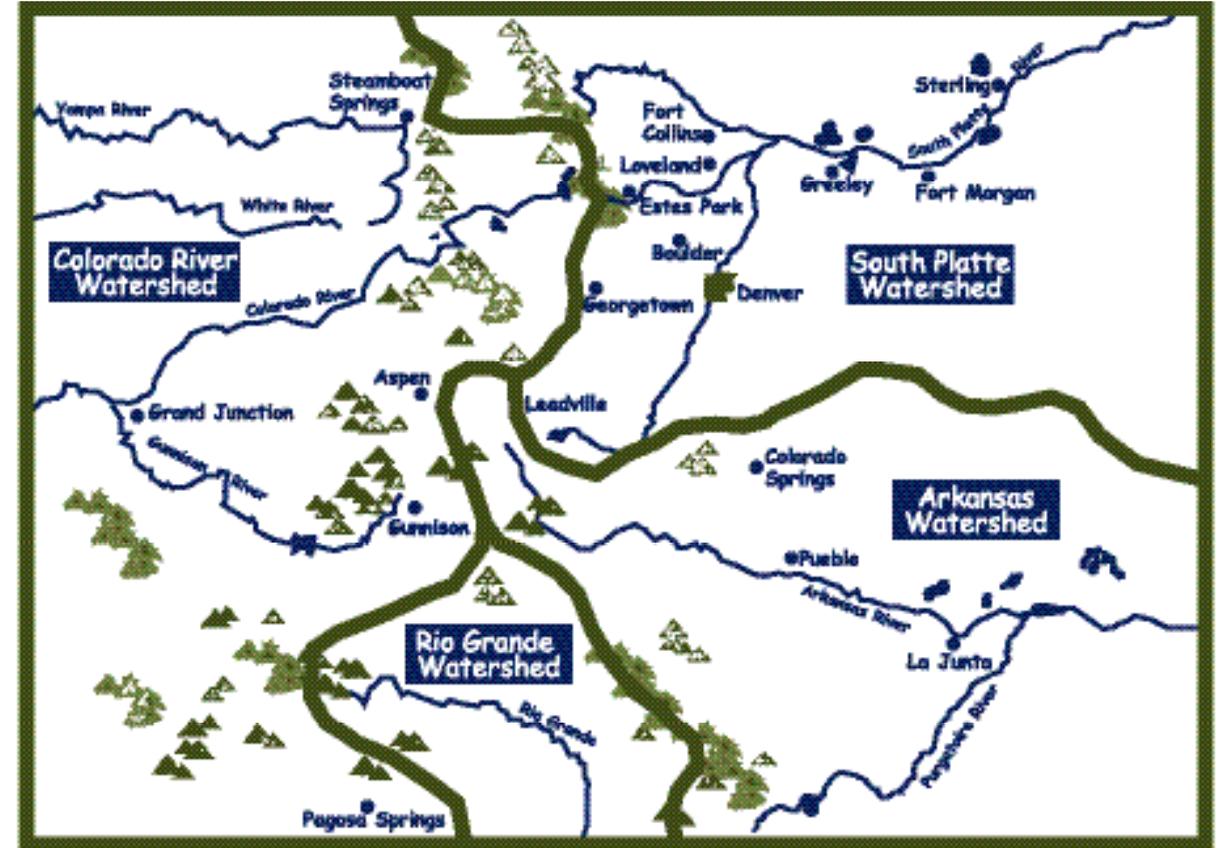


**COLORADO
WATER
PROTECTION
PROJECT**



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What watershed do you live in?



We all live in a watershed

A watershed is the area of land, which catches rain and snow that drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. The highest ground, such as mountains or ridges, forms boundaries between watersheds - in this case, Colorado's four major watersheds.

Actions residents take around their homes can impact water quality throughout the watershed.

Auto Maintenance

- ◆ Never dump motor oil, petroleum products, antifreeze, transmission fluids, engine cleaners or battery acid down storm drains or on the ground.
- ◆ Recycle automotive maintenance products. Call your city or county for information on recycling centers or inquire if a neighborhood service station accepts used products.
- ◆ Keep your car well maintained. Repair oil, transmission and brake systems immediately. Leaks and spills form toxic puddles that will eventually be washed into storm drains or directly into bodies of water.
- ◆ If a spill occurs, do not rinse that area with water. Instead, use kitty litter, sawdust or wood chips to soak up the fluid then put it in the trash.
- ◆ Read product labels carefully and follow disposal directions.

Yard and Garden

- ◆ Carefully read and follow label directions for use and disposal of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers. Do not apply these chemicals if rain is likely since most will be washed away.
- ◆ Go natural whenever possible. Use natural fertilizers such as compost or bone meal. Hand pull weeds, especially before seeds are produced. Remove insects by hand or use insecticidal soap or a water hose.
- ◆ Replace some of your high-maintenance lawn with more natural landscaping, such as Xeriscaping or wildflower gardens.
- ◆ Select pest-resistant plants or try companion planting to reduce the need for garden chemicals.
- ◆ For more information, contact the Colorado State University Cooperative Extension in your area.



Pet Waste

- ◆ Take a plastic bag or pooper scooper along when walking your pet.
- ◆ Flush pet waste down the toilet
or
- ◆ Wrap pet waste securely and put it in the trash.

It's our water, Colorado.

Let's be careful what we put in it.

Simple activities can harm the state's water quality, like:

- ◆ Improperly disposing of motor oil
- ◆ Overusing lawn and garden products
- ◆ Leaving pet waste on the ground

Rain, snowmelt and overwatering move these household pollutants to rivers, lakes and streams. This polluted runoff, also known as nonpoint source pollution, has a major impact on water quality.