

Storm Drain Pollution Solutions








Storm Drain Markers- Local 4-H Clubs, Boy Scout Troops, and Public School Students have assisted in applying over 100 storm drain markers in Washakie County. These markers help educate the public on reducing their contribution to pollution entering our surface water.

Pet Waste Management:

When pet wastes are not properly disposed of, these wastes can be carried into storm drains, which are then emptied directly into our local waterways. You can help lessen the impact your pet can have on surface water by picking up after your pet and disposing of waste properly. Picking up pet waste is a simple action that the public can take to prevent bacteria from entering our surface water.

Tips!

-  Pick up your pet's waste **every single time**.
-  **Throw away pet waste** in the garbage or flush down the toilet.
-  Take advantage of the **complimentary bags** offered in dispensers at local parks and walking path.
-  Ensure you always have **extra bags** in your car so you are prepared when you travel with your pet, or walk your pet.
-  **Teach children** how to properly clean up after their pet.



Washakie County Conservation District received grant funds to purchase 15 Pet Stations, and with the assistance of local Boy Scout Troop #45, Worland High School students, and the city of Worland installed these stations along the Worland Walking Path and in all of the Worland City Parks. These stations consist of a dispenser for degradable bags to use to pick up and dispose of pet waste.

City of Worland Ordinance (Ord. 717, §1, 6-18-1998)

The owner or any person having or purporting to have control over any animal is responsible for the removal of any excreta deposited by said animal on public walks, public ways, parks, recreation areas, or private property, other than that of the owner. It shall be unlawful for said owner or person having or purporting to have control of said animal to fail to properly remove the deposited excreta. The violation of this ordinance shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine of not more than seven hundred fifty dollars. (Ord. 390, § 2, 1-3-1974; Ord. 495, § 2, 7-17-1980; Ord. 508, § 2, 7-2-1981; Ord. 771, § 1, 3-17-2008)

REFERENCES

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"Working to improve our quality of life"



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Like many counties in Wyoming, **Washakie County has many storm drains that drain untreated water to our local streams.** In Worland, storm drains empty into the Big Horn River and in Ten Sleep, they empty into Ten Sleep Creek, which then enters the Nowood River.

The causes and effects of pollutants that reach our local rivers via storm drains include:

• **urban metals** and other toxins are absorbed in the flesh of fish and can kill them and are dangerous when eaten.

• **fertilizers and detergents** cause plant and algae growth, which depletes water of oxygen, which also kills aquatic life and animals. Pet waste is considered fertilizer in this instance.

• **oil, paint, cleaning supplies** and other toxic materials from cars and batteries kill fish, animals, and plants.

• **animal waste** is one of the most common sources of the following diseases: Coccidia, Giardia, Hookworms, Parvo Virus, Roundworms, and Whipworms, Dysentery, and Hepatitis. Roundworms and Tapeworms deposited via the waste of infected pets can live in the soil for long periods of time and can also be transmitted to other animals and humans. Roundworms can cause humans to lose their vision temporarily, as well as trigger coughs and fevers. Bacteria found in canine waste contains bacteria. In humans, E.coli bacteria often cause gastrointestinal infections, as well as infections to the ear, eye, and throat. Another bacteria, campylobacter, can cause diarrhea and Salmonella can cause infections that trigger fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

(Children have an even greater risk at getting some of these diseases since they often play in the dirt and put things in their mouths or touch their eyes. Parasitic infections are especially dangerous to pregnant women as it can pose serious harm to their unborn child.)



Managing Pollutants in Urban Runoff- **You can help!**

Trash Management:

Trash and floating debris are significant pollutants in urban runoff and storm water. Trash in our local streams and along our riverbanks contributes not only to visual pollution, but also poses a threat to wildlife and human health. Recycling of paper, magazines, and cardboard is coordinated locally through the Washakie County Solid Waste District.



Lawn, Garden and Landscaping Activities:

Pesticides, fertilizers and soil from lawn, garden and landscaping can result in pollution of urban runoff into storm drains. Proper gardening techniques, however, can effectively reduce pollutant runoff and water use, while enhancing the aesthetics of landscape areas. Environmental friendly landscape management, including thoughtful planning and design, routine soil analysis, appropriate plant selection, minimal use of turf, water conservation, use of mulches, and appropriate maintenance reduces urban runoff. Keeping grass clippings, leaves and other "biodegradable" debris out of the gutter is also important to protect the quality of urban runoff. Divert roof downspouts from paved surfaces onto turf areas which allows water to filter through the soils, or rain barrels can also be used to collect the water to be reused to water plants.

Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Wastes:

Many products used in homes and businesses, such as solvents, fuels, paints, and motor oil contain chemicals that are potentially harmful to the environment, especially when improperly disposed of. To properly dispose of household hazardous wastes, take them to our local household hazardous waste collection day, which is held every two years in Worland in May. Even though landfills are lined to prevent leakage into the environment, some chemicals can damage landfill liners rendering them ineffective.

Automobile Maintenance Activities:

Detergents, solvents and other chemicals used to clean vehicles also contribute to pollution of urban runoff and storm water. Instead of washing vehicles where wastewater can enter storm drains, use the local car wash whose wastewater is required to be disposed of properly. Prior to washing, remove all debris from the area using waterless methods such as brooms, wire brushes or absorbent materials. Another option is to wash vehicles where runoff flows into landscaped areas. Never pour or dump used motor oil, antifreeze or other automotive fluids into gutters or storm drains. Used motor oil from one oil change can pollute over 100,000 gallons of storm water runoff.