

Kids' Page



Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Word Search

To do the word search read these paragraphs. Then find the listed words in the word search.

The United States has made tremendous advances in the past 25 years to clean up the aquatic **environment** by controlling **pollution** from industries and sewage treatment plants. Today, **nonpoint source** pollution remains the Nation's largest source of **water** quality problems. **Nonpoint source** (NPS) pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them into rivers, lakes, and coastal waters or introduces them into ground water. The most common NPS pollutants are **sediment** and **nutrients**. Other common NPS pollutants include **pesticide**, pathogens, salts, oil, grease, toxic chemicals, and excess **fertilizer**.

The **watershed** approach is one way to determine the effectiveness of management techniques. It looks at a waterbody but also the entire area, including all the potential sources of pollution, that drains into it. **Water conservation** uses technologies that limit water use in the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room, lawn, driveway, and garden, thereby reducing the demand on existing water supplies and limiting the amount of water **runoff**. A more technical approach can be used which includes the implementation of best management practices (**BMP**). These are pollution control measures that can be used to prevent or reduce the impacts from activities that may cause water pollution. Examples of BMPs include, **erosion** control techniques like silt fencing, establishment of **riparian** (vegetated) zones next to waterbodies to filter out pollutants, and **xeriscape** landscaping which incorporates native species, proper irrigation, mulches, and appropriate maintenance schedules. Many local groups organize volunteer **monitoring** efforts which provide information that can help government agencies understand the magnitude of NPS pollution.

Can You Find These Words?

(circle each one)

Nonpoint Source	Runoff
Watershed	Monitoring
Conservation	Environment
Water	Pollution
BMP	Nutrients
Sediment	Pesticide
Fertilizer	Xeriscape
Riparian	Erosion

A N O N P O I N T S O U R C E
N P U A I R D E G H F A I O P
L T O T N E M I D E S W P A A
O W A T R N B K C M L E A G C
N A F D U I Y F F O N U R B S
O T E W O T E R B W T N I C I
I E R Y L P M N R G C D A G R
T R T P O L L U T I O N N A E
A S I E M S T D W S R I F S X
V H L S K B W K J U R S L N C
R E I T C T U A S O I M R O M
E D Z I P L V O T A W Z H I F
S E E C M F H I R E D L M S A
N E R I A N N K G P R H P O J
O D I D V O C M D J T J E R B
C T N E M N O R I V N E T E W