

## HOW TO BECOME PART OF THE SOLUTION!

- Use fertilizers sparingly.
- Never dump anything down storm drains or into streams.
- Properly dispose of household chemicals at hazardous waste collection sites.
- Vegetate bare spots in your yard.
- Compost your yard waste.
- Use little or no pesticides, and use the least toxic if necessary. Learn how to prevent pest problems.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and consider starting a rain garden to manage gutter runoff.
- Take your vehicles to the car wash instead of washing it in the paved driveway, or wash it on your lawn.
- Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil and other vehicle lubricants and coolants.
- Clean up pet waste.
- Have your septic system inspected regularly.

### Who to Contact with Questions:

- Douglas County Public Works at (541) 440-4267 or on the web at: [www.recyclepower.org](http://www.recyclepower.org)
- Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 662-1341 or on the web at: [umpquasoilandwater.com](http://umpquasoilandwater.com)
- Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District at (541) 957-5061 or on the web at: [www.douglasswcd.org](http://www.douglasswcd.org)
- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality at (503) 229-5696 or on the web at: [www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/nonpoint.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/nonpoint/nonpoint.htm)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture at (503) 986-4700 or on the web at: [oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water\\_quality\\_front.shtml](http://oregon.gov/ODA/NRD/water_quality_front.shtml)
- Douglas County Oregon State Extension Service at (541) 672-4453 or on the web at: [www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas](http://www.extension.oregonstate.edu/douglas)
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board at (503) 986-0195 or on the web at: [www.oregon.gov/OPSW/partners/partner.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OPSW/partners/partner.shtml)
- Find your local Watershed Council through the Network of Watershed Councils on the web at: <http://oregonwatersheds.org>

*“When you drink the water,  
remember the spring.”*

*-Chinese Proverb-*

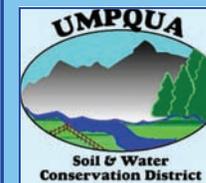
## KEEPING OUR ESTUARIES CLEAN



The Umpqua River Estuary Near Winchester Bay, Oregon

### *A GUIDE TO NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION*

### *DOUGLAS COUNTY & UMPQUA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT*



## WHAT IS NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION?

Nonpoint source pollution is sometimes called polluted runoff. It may be hard to recognize and is often difficult to control. It is pollution or runoff that comes from diffuse sources, rather than from a “point source” like the end of a discharge pipe.

Nonpoint source pollution runs off the land and can affect lakes, rivers, wetlands, groundwater, and drinking water supplies. Sediment and nutrients are the most commonly recognized nonpoint pollutants, but toxic contaminants (heavy metals and man-made chemicals such as pesticides and solvents), airborne inputs, and pathogens (disease-causing organisms) from human or animal waste are also nonpoint source pollutants.

**Many everyday activities have the potential to produce nonpoint source pollution.**



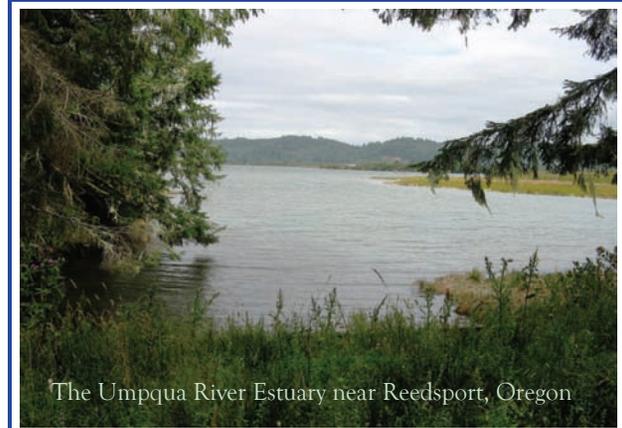
## Where Does Nonpoint Source Pollution Come From?

Nonpoint sources for pollution include urban and agricultural runoff, mining, silviculture (forestry), wastewater treatment, construction, transportation, and recreational activities. Nonpoint sources from urban and residential areas include fertilizers and pesticides from lawn and garden care, automotive fluids, pet waste, hazardous household waste, and airborne emissions from vehicles and industry. Human activities that disturb the land can increase the nonpoint source pollutant load.

## WHY ARE CLEAN ESTUARIES IMPORTANT?

Estuaries are where the fresh water from the rivers mix with the salt water from the ocean creating a unique transition zone brimming with life of all kinds. The estuary gathers nutrients from the land and from the ocean, forming an ecosystem that contains more life per square inch than the richest Midwest farmland.

Estuaries are important to us because they are a critical source for much of our ocean life. Estuaries provide essential habitat for



The Umpqua River Estuary near Reedsport, Oregon

over 75% of our nation’s commercial fish catch and provide a place for recreation and tourism.

Estuaries are important to our quality of life beyond healthy economies and recreation. The local bay or sound often serves as the focal point for community life and traditions, hosting festivals and ports. Estuaries help protect water quality, are a center for research and education, and limit the erosion of our shoreline communities.

Estuaries are national treasures which are vital ecological and community resources whose health affects our health and the vibrancy of our communities and economy.

Sadly, estuaries have the highest rate of impairment because pollution can travel from hundreds of miles upstream and empty directly into the estuary.