NON-POINT SOURCE (NPS) POLLUTION

bonus coloring page!

WHAT CAUSES NPS?

NPS pollution is 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 lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. For Nitro NPS directly affects Kanawha River and Lake RIdenour.

The illustration above shows some of the primary activities that generate nonpoint source pollution -including farming and grazing activities, timber harvesting, new development, construction, recreational boating. manure, pesticides, fertilizers, contaminated stormwater washed off parking lots, roads and highways, and lawns. Even households contribute to NPS pollution through improper chemical and pesticide use, landscaping, and other household practices.

Did you know?

According to the EPA, NPS is the main reason that 40% of surveyed bodies of water are not clean enough to meet basic uses such as fishing and/or swimming.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

The WV DEP has a program to help prevent NPS called Watershed Improvement Branch (WIB). Their mission is "To inspire and empower people to value and work for clean water". They coordinate multi-agency efforts to address NPS by: Providing assistance in the proper installation and maintenance of (BMPs); Supporting citizen based watershed organizations; supporting partners whose activities relate to nonpoint issues; and Restoring impaired watersheds with nonpoint abatement projects. Check out more at dep.wv.gov

You can also help at home by:

- cleaning up pet waste and trash

- limiting the amount of fertilizers and pesticides you use, plus do not apply them when it is about to rain

- implementing stormwater management practices at home like planting trees or adding a rain barrel

- using environmentally friendly cleaning products

- disposing of hazardous chemicals properly

- cleaning up and fixing vehicle leaks promptly

BE THE SOLUTION TO WATER POLLUTION