

# Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Community Fact Sheet

August 2007

*This fact sheet was created to provide information on Coconino County's Stormwater Management "Clean Stream Program." What are the impacts of stormwater runoff on waterbodies? What portions of the County will the program affect? What potential contaminants and sources will the program address? How can you take part and volunteer? Read on to find answers to these questions and more . . .*

## What is a watershed?

We all live in a watershed! A watershed is the area of land that catches rain and snow and drains or seeps into a specific marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Homes, farms, ranches, forests, small towns or big cities can either comprise or be part of a watershed. Watersheds cross county, state, and even international borders and come in all shapes and sizes. Some are millions of square miles, others are just a few acres. Just as creeks drain into rivers, watersheds are nearly always part of a larger drainage basin.

## Stormwater's Impact

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants while flowing to washes, streams, rivers, or lakes. Anything that enters a watershed is discharged *untreated* into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.



## What is the County's Clean Stream Program?

In 2003, Coconino County filed with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) a Notice of Intent (NOI) for coverage under the General Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (AZPDES) Permit for authorization to discharge stormwater runoff into the waters of the U.S. from roadside

drainage ditches or other street drains (Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, SMS4s), under County jurisdiction.

At the same time, the County also submitted to ADEQ a Stormwater Management "**Clean Stream Program**" committing the County to the development of Best Management Practices (BMPs), amended ordinance language, measurable goals, and to establishing target dates for the achievement and full implementation of the six program elements, required for stormwater discharges from SMS4s.

The County's **Clean Stream Program** commits to specific control measures through the enforcement of BMPs that will reduce the physical and chemical pollution from stormwater runoff to the maximum extent practicable.

## What are the County's SMS4s?

SMS4s are comprised of land areas with water flow conveyance systems and population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile that are within, or adjacent to, areas with a population of 50,000 (like Flagstaff).

Coconino County has been designated and listed as a SMS4 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as evaluated by the following criteria: 1) discharge to sensitive waters; 2) high population density; 3) high growth or growth potential; 4) contiguity to an urban area; 5) significant contributor of pollutants to waters of the U.S.; and 6) ineffective protection of water quality concerns by other programs.

There are **seven discrete County SMS4s** within an adjacent Flagstaff urban area under County jurisdiction. These SMS4s are listed below.



*What you will learn about...*

**Watersheds and Stormwater's Impact**

**Coconino County Stormwater "Clean Stream" Program**

**SMS4s**

**Potential Contaminants and Sources at Home and Work**

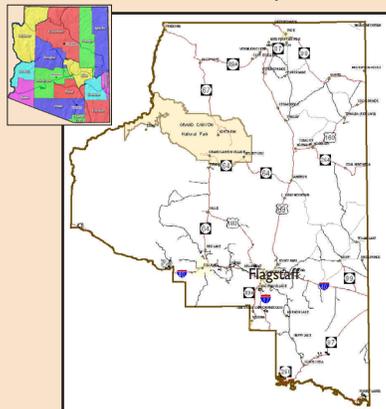
**How You Can Volunteer**

**Where to Learn More**

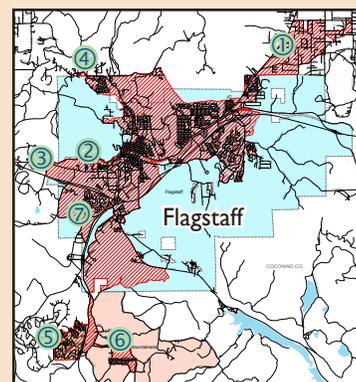
## Arizona Watersheds



Coconino County, the largest county in Arizona, covers 18,617 square miles.



The map below lists the locations of the County's SMS4s around the Flagstaff urbanized area, within the bold red border with thin, diagonal red lines.



- ① Doney Park
- ② Dunnam Street
- ③ Flagstaff Ranch
- ④ Hidden Hollow
- ⑤ Kachina Village
- ⑥ Mountaineer
- ⑦ Mountain Dell



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## What potential contaminants and sources will the program address?

The Coconino County SWMP commits the County to amending and adopting revised ordinance language to address illicit discharges, regulate construction site runoff, and address post-construction runoff management. (The County's stormwater website provides general information about the progress of this portion of the program.) The following contaminants will be addressed by the Clean Stream Program:

- **Sediment** can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy fish habitats.
- **Excess nutrients** can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms cannot exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- **Bacteria** and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and other waterways creating health hazards.
- **Debris**—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- **Household hazardous wastes** like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- **Polluted stormwater** often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

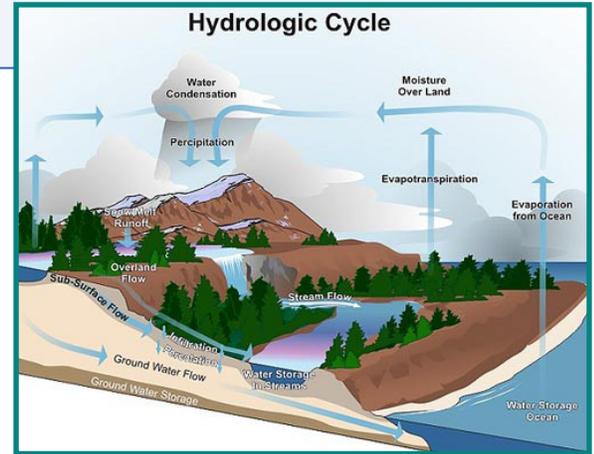
## The Clean Stream Program "10 to Remember"

### 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO AT HOME ...

- ◆ **Auto Care:** don't dump automotive fluids or detergents onto the ground. It has the same result as dumping them directly into a waterbody.
- ◆ **Landscaping and Lawn Care:** use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- ◆ **Maintain Your Septic System:** inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).
- ◆ **Pet Waste:** remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly.
- ◆ **Recycle or Properly Dispose of Household Products:** they contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, so don't pour them onto the ground.

### 5 THINGS YOU CAN DO AT WORK ...

- ◆ **Contain and Clean up Spills Immediately**
- ◆ **Sweep Up Debris Around Your Business**
- ◆ **Secure Trash Containers**
- ◆ **Recycle or Properly Dispose of Chemicals**
- ◆ **Report Illegal Dumping or Spills**



Map created by the University of Arizona

## How Can I Volunteer?

Across the nation, volunteer groups monitor the condition of streams, rivers, lakes, reservoirs, wetlands, and coastal waters to help protect the water where they live, work, or play. Volunteer efforts are of particular value in providing quality data and building stewardship of local waters.

During the next year, the County will be devoting efforts in developing volunteer programs across the County to help collect data to supplement the water quality information collected by County staff.

### Volunteers can help to:

- ◆ Develop the volunteer monitoring program and research further restoration efforts.
- ◆ Make visual observations in their communities and report the impacts of storms.
- ◆ Clean up garbage-strewn washes and become involved in restoring degraded habitats.
- ◆ Assess the physical and chemical characteristics of waterways.
- ◆ Help evaluate the success of Best Management Practices designed to mitigate problems.

The County will conduct volunteer training meetings to discuss and train volunteers about the monitoring and assessment portions of the stormwater program.

## Sign Up Now!

Be a Clean Stream Volunteer  
in YOUR COMMUNITY!

## Contact Us!

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Coconino County  
Public Works Department  
2500 N. Ft. Valley Rd., Bldg. #1  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
Tel: (928) 226-2784  
tsmith@coconino.az.gov

## Learn More!

Information involving the **Clean Stream Program** will be provided in the public education and involvement link on the County's stormwater website at: [www.coconino.az.gov/SWMP](http://www.coconino.az.gov/SWMP)  
[www.epa.gov/watershed](http://www.epa.gov/watershed)  
[www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water](http://www.azdeq.gov/envirom/water)  
[www.ag.arizona.edu/watershedsteward](http://www.ag.arizona.edu/watershedsteward)

## Volunteer!

Volunteer Training Meetings  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday, September 18  
Doney Park Fire Station No. 32  
8905 N. Koch Field Road, Flagstaff

Tuesday, September 19  
Kachina Village Fire Station No. 21  
568 Kona Trail, Kachina Village

