

# ECO-AGENT




## WHAT YOU OTTER KNOW ABOUT WATER, RAIN & RUNOFF

### WHAT'S THE POINT?

Half of all water pollution starts as nonpoint source pollution which is carried over and under ground by water, usually rainfall, and ends up in a large water body such as a lake, river, stream, ocean, and even our drinking water. (Some people call it "runoff pollution.")

This is different from point source pollution. Point source pollution is the pouring of pollutants directly into a water body. Examples are sewage or factory waste running out of a pipe. There are government laws to help control point source pollution, but we can all help to reduce nonpoint source pollution at home and in our neighborhood.

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!

All Earth's waters - lakes, oceans, groundwater, and others - are made pure by a natural process called evaporation. The pure water returns to Earth in rain, sleet, hail, or snow. Much of this returning water ends up in our groundwater. Groundwater is the water that moves through the soil and is stored under the ground.

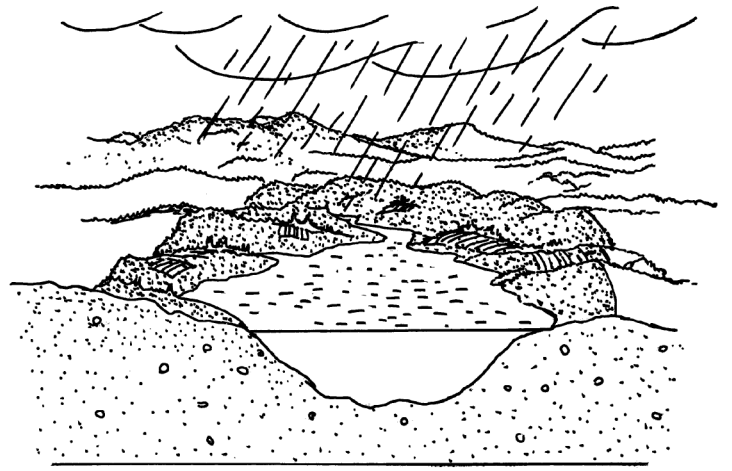
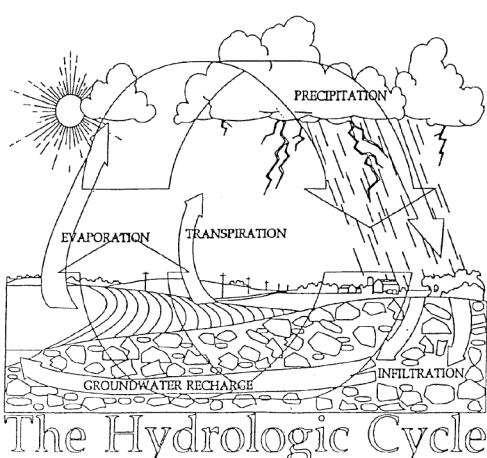
### WHERE TO GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE...

You local County Conservation District office can help you and the Conservation Commission with understanding and fixing soil erosion, water quality issues, and stormwater management.

### SHOPPING FOR NEW WATER ...

You are out of luck! Earth does not make new water.

Three quarters of our planet Earth is covered in water - recycled water. If our waters are polluted, it is harder for the water cycle process to make pure, clean water for us to drink, swim in, water our gardens, and use in many other ways.



## A JOURNEY DOWN THE WATERSHED

A watershed is an area where water makes its way downhill over land and in streams, rivers, wetlands, bogs, or flows underground.

Any way water moves down a hill to a large waterbody, such as Lake Winnepesaukee, is called a watershed. How we handle water as it journeys through the watershed can make the difference between a clean lake and a polluted lake.



SOURCES OF NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION CAN INCLUDE:  
When they are not properly managed...

- Pesticides/Herbicides
- Fertilizers
- Animal Waste
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Construction
- Urban Stormwater

Look for more information on these sources in other posters!

### LEARNING ACTIVITY:

Objective - Learn how land features define watershed areas.



1. Go outdoors and look around your school, home or swimming place for the watershed area (see above 'A Journey Down the Watershed').
2. Discuss how the following land character changes might affect the water in your watershed area: pollutants, paved areas such as parking lots, oil spills, farm animals near streams.
3. Using a topographic map of your area, start at a lake, pond or wetland, and work your way up hill following up every stream and river and beyond them to the highest elevations. Connect each of the highest points to outline the watershed boundaries. Look for your school within the watershed.
4. Find out what your town's Conservation Commission does to help your watershed and water quality.

REMEMBER...WHAT YOU DUMP INTO THE GROUND WILL END UP IN OUR DRINKING AND SWIMMING WATER. HUMANS AND THE ANIMALS, FISH AND BIRDS ALL NEED CLEAN WATER TO SURVIVE.

