

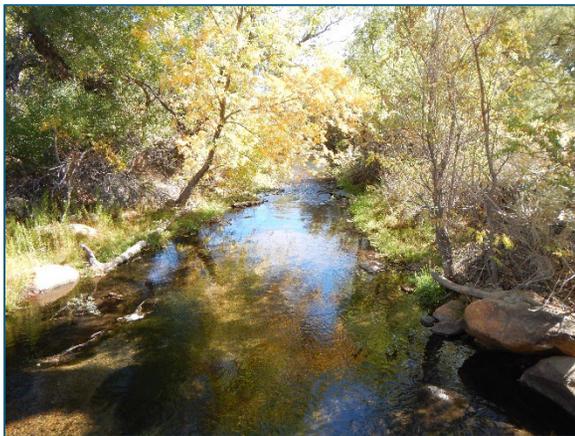
## [What is Nonpoint Source Pollution?](#)

Nonpoint source pollution (NPS) can be a result of land runoff, precipitation, drainage, seepage, atmospheric deposition, or hydraulic modification. As runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters, and ground waters.

Pollutants include:

- Fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides
- Oil and grease from urban runoff
- Sediment from croplands and eroding streambanks
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet waste, and faulty septic systems

Of those surveyed, approximately 36% of the nation's river miles and 37% of lake acreage are not safe for basic uses such as swimming or fishing. It is estimated that at least half of this impairment is caused by NPS pollution.



## [What is the NPS Management Program?](#)

Congress enacted Section 319 of the Clean Water Act in 1987, establishing a national program to control non-point sources of water pollution. Section 319 provides states, territories, and tribes with funding to implement NPS controls that minimize or eliminate this type of pollution.



## [What are the effects of Nonpoint Sources of Pollution?](#)

NPS pollution is the leading cause of water quality problems. Effects of NPS pollutants on specific waters can vary, however it is known that they have harmful effects on drinking water, recreation, fisheries, and wildlife.

## [Why is NPS Pollution important to the Walker River Paiute Tribe?](#)

Groundwater and the Walker River are precious resources for the Tribe. Groundwater is pumped from two wells that provide drinking and household water for Schurz.



The Walker River is used for fishing, swimming, irrigation, and stock watering on the Reservation. Reducing or eliminating NPS pollution will preserve the beneficial uses of Reservation waters.



## How is NPS Pollution currently addressed?

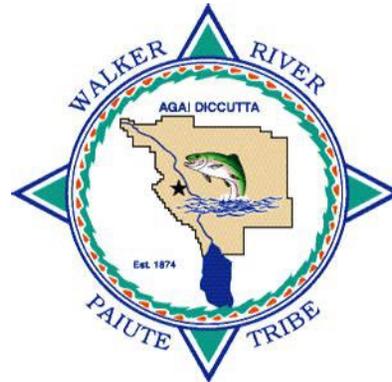
The WRPT Water Resources Department is implementing an NPS Management Plan. With grant funds, projects like solar wells, irrigation return flow improvements, and restoration along the Walker River. Please visit <https://www.wrpt.org/water-resources/> for a complete list of past projects.

Previous sampling suggests that Tribal well water have not been impacted by NPS pollution. However, Walker River and Weber Reservoir water quality is continually assessed. Bi-monthly samples are collected and analyzed by certified laboratories. Results are used to determine if surface waters meet state water quality standards. Future efforts will prioritize measures for reducing NPS pollution of surface waters.

## How can you help?

- Use phosphate-free detergents
- Use water-based products
- Limit fertilizer and pesticide use
- Do not flush or dump household cleaners, grease or oil down the drain or in the street. One quart of motor oil can contaminate up to **2 million gallons of drinking water!**
- Report all chemical and oil spills
- Maintenance septic systems with routine inspections every 3-5 years

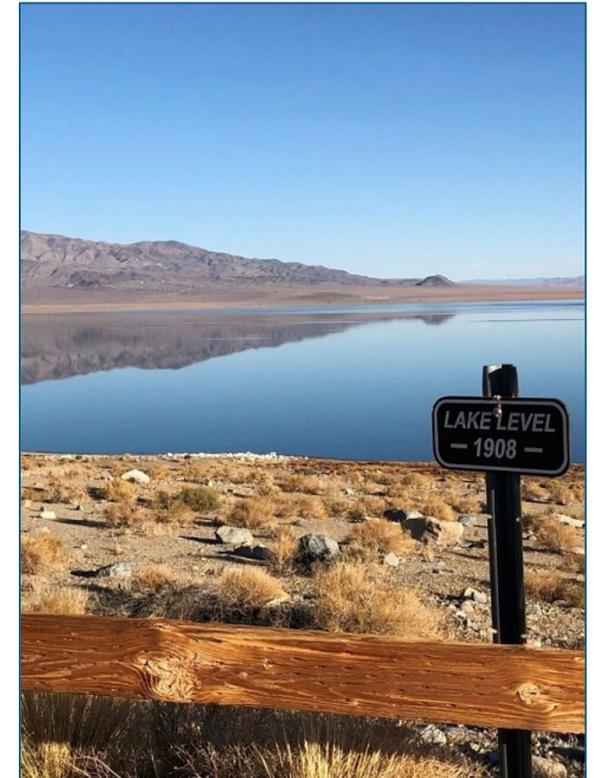
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For more information, please contact Mr. Roy Begay at the WRPT Water Resources Department, or visit the EPA at <https://www.epa.gov/nps>

## WALKER RIVER PAIUTE TRIBE



## NONPOINT SOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



Funded by the Environmental Protection Agency