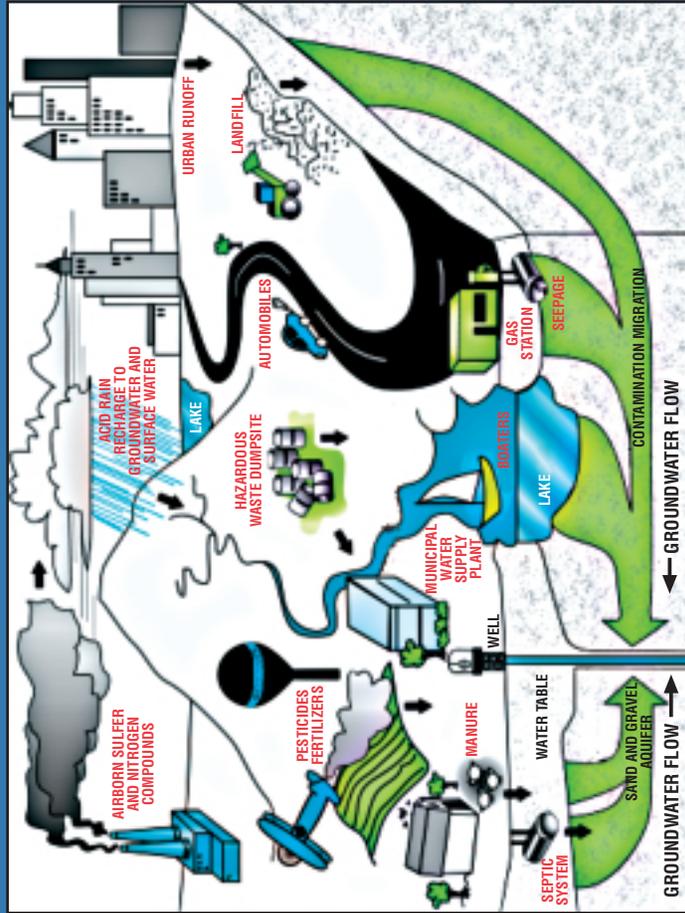


# North Carolina Rural Water Association SOURCE WATER PROTECTION



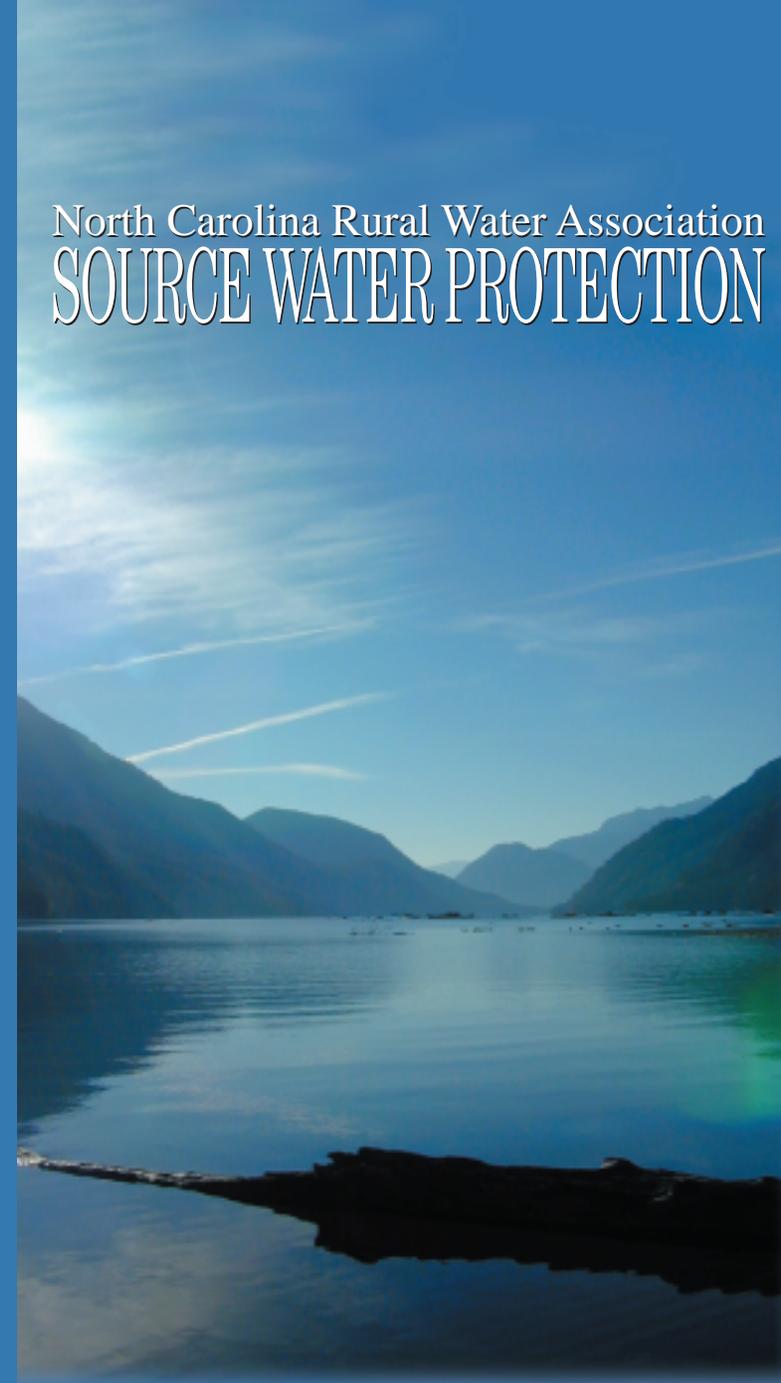
## Sources of Water Contamination

For additional information please contact:



North Carolina Rural Water Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 540, Welcome, NC 27374  
336.731.6369 – Fax 336.731.8589  
[www.NCRWA.com](http://www.NCRWA.com)



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# SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION IN NORTH CAROLINA

## HISTORY



In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act to add Source Water Protection planning in an effort to build upon efforts accomplished previously under the Act such as the Wellhead Protection Program in 1986. The amendment encourages voluntary local partnerships to protect all sources that supply public drinking water systems.

## PROGRESS – Source Water Assessment

Section 1453 of the SDWA Amendments required that all states establish Source Water Assessment Programs to:

- delineate source water assessment areas
- inventory significant potential contaminants in these areas
- determine the susceptibility of each public water supply to contamination and
- make this information available to the public

In 2004, the North Carolina Public Water Supply Section made available Source Water Assessment Program reports and associated information for public drinking water systems in the state, which met those requirements. To view these reports, click on the “Source Water Assessment and Protection” button on the Public Water Supply Section Web site <http://www.deh.enr.state.nc.us/pws/>.

The Source Water Assessment Reports provide a wealth of information about public water supply sources and potential contaminant sources in a user friendly, ArcIMS application (click on the “NC SWAP Info” button).



North Carolina Rural Water Association, Inc.

## SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

Source Water Protection Plans will take the information supplied in the assessments and expand upon it by:

- creating partnerships among diverse groups of responsible individuals focused on the primary objective of the protection of drinking water sources, while recognizing the constraints from other ongoing activities in the watershed
- “ground truthing” the data provided in the assessment reports and adding local data about other pollution sources in the delineated area
- developing ways to manage potential contaminant sources to reduce or eliminate contamination in Source Water Protection Areas
- contingency planning, which is simply developing long and short-term drinking water supply replacement strategies for supplying safe drinking water to the consumer in the event of contamination or physical disruption

The Source Water Protection Program is meant to complement the already established Wellhead Protection Program that has been very successful in North Carolina, and provide protection for all sources that provide water to public water supply systems, whether it be wells, springs, lakes, reservoirs, or rivers.

## BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES –

- Protection from contamination at the source is the best way to ensure a safe quality water supply, now and for the future.
- There is a profound negative impact on communities when their water supply becomes contaminated. Installing treatment facilities, locating new water sources or contamination remediation are costly alternatives.
- Under the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program and the Clean Water Revolving Fund (CWRf) Program, public water supply systems and wastewater systems with

approved Source Water Protection Plans are awarded priority points toward receiving loans and grants.

- There are several sources of funding available which support a wide array of Source Water Protection approaches. A list of these sources can be found on the NC Public Water Supply Section website <http://204.211.89.20/Swap/pages/swpfunding.htm>.

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*"We forget that  
the water cycle and  
the life cycle are one"*

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*Jacques Cousteau*

