

Why is it important?

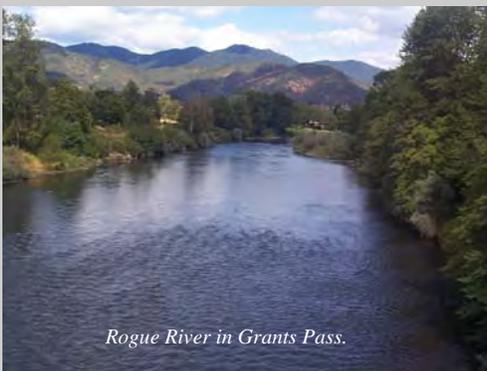
Protecting the storm drain system is important because most of the runoff that enters the storm drain system ends up in Bear Creek and the Rogue River. **Runoff entering storm drains is not routed to or treated by a wastewater treatment plant.**



Bear Creek at Kirtland Road.



Wetland along the Bear Creek Greenway.



Rogue River in Grants Pass.

For more information or to report concerns contact:

Rogue Valley Sewer Services
138 W. Vilas Road
Central Point, OR. 97502
www.rvss.us
541-664-6300

Agency Contact Information

DEQ Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance—(541) 776-6010 ext. 239

DEQ Solid Waste Issues—(541) 776-6010 ext. 242

Additional Contacts

Ashland - 488-5587 or 488-5305

Medford - 774-2100 or 774-2380

RVCOG Natural Resources Department - 664-6674



Creeks and Concrete Don't Mix



Impacts of Concrete

Fresh concrete and cement-related mortars that wash into Bear Creek and the Rogue River are toxic to fish and the aquatic environment.

The lime found in cement and concrete products easily dissolves in water. Lime is alkaline, so as a result concrete slurry and water that comes into contact with cement or concrete becomes strongly alkaline (pH 11-13). **This is deadly to aquatic life.** High pH solutions such as slurry or concrete washwater will attack the sensitive membranes of fish, including the gills and the skin.

Runoff entering storm drains is not routed to or treated by a wastewater treatment plant prior to entering Bear Creek and the Rogue River.



What can be done?

Sidewalk and Concrete Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best management practices (BMPs) are used to prevent or reduce the discharge of pollutants to stormwater from concrete construction work into rights-of-way or private property.

Having your crews implement BMPs such as washing out off-site, on-site washout in designated areas, and training employees and subcontractors about how their work can impact water quality will reduce pollution entering storm drains.

Things You Can Do

- Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use in a day.
- Set up and operate small mixers on tarps or heavy plastic drop cloths.
- When cleaning up after driveway or sidewalk construction, wash fines onto dirt areas, not down the driveway or into the street or storm drains.
- Place straw bales or other erosion controls to catch runoff before it reaches the storm drains.
- Recycle large chunks of broken concrete at a landfill.
- Never bury waste materials.

General Practices

- Always store dry and wet materials under cover, protected from rain and runoff at both your yard and the construction site.
- Protect dry materials from wind.
- Schedule projects to avoid wet weather as much as possible.
- Secure bags of cement once they are open. Be sure to keep wind-blown cement powder away from gutters, storm drains, rainfall, and runoff.
- Install and use concrete wash outs or plastic disposal bags.



An example of a properly designed concrete wash out. Wash outs can be scaled down for use on smaller projects.