



# Source Water & Watershed Protection Program in Washoe County

Where does public drinking water come from in Washoe County?

- The Truckee River provides 85% of the public drinking water
- Over 200 wells provide the rest of the public drinking water

What impacts the water quality of the Truckee River and wells?

- Excessive use of lawn fertilizers, pesticides, and water
- Failure to pick up pet waste
- Dumping household chemicals, batteries, fluorescent lights, motor oil, antifreeze, human feces, etc.
- Septic systems
- Leaking underground tanks storing fuel or chemicals
- Soil erosion
- Urban storm runoff from yards, roads, rooftops, and parking lots
- Lack of riparian buffers (natural vegetation along streams and rivers)
- Commercial or industrial accidental spills

What can we do to protect our water quality?

This comprehensive program in Washoe County is being supported by the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP). This program will look at threats to community drinking water and actions to minimize or eliminate risks to water quality.



## What will the program accomplish?

A plan will be prepared to evaluate water quality protection and describe projects identified by the team. These descriptions will outline the projects including the priority, costs, schedule, and benefits. The planning process in Washoe County is anticipated to be complete by 2020.

## Who are the Stakeholders that will prepare the plan?

Input from community stakeholders is needed to ensure that the plan meets the needs of the local communities. Stakeholders include:

- Western Region Water Commission
- City of Reno, City of Sparks, Washoe County
- Truckee Meadows Water Authority
- Community planners, engineers, and educators
- Washoe County Health District
- Public water system owners and operators
- Other interested parties

## How will this program be managed?

This is a dynamic, voluntary, stakeholder-driven process. NDEP's consultant, Resource Concepts, Inc. (RCI), will facilitate all aspects of developing the plan and carrying the plan forward.

## How much does this program cost?

Upfront costs for this planning effort are funded through the NDEP and local partners. The completed plan will open the door for local, state and federal clean water project funding.

## How can my agency or organization become involved to help?

We are happy to come meet with your organization. Your organization can request participation by contacting the NDEP indicating your desire to help and requesting participation as a stakeholder.



## Where can I get more information?

Information is available on the web at: [http://www.rci-nv.com/source\\_water\\_protection/](http://www.rci-nv.com/source_water_protection/)

### Public Water Wells

Kim Borgzinner  
Integrated Source Water Protection Program  
Coordinator  
Bureau of Safe Drinking Water  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
  
775.687.9503 kborgzinner@ndep.nv.gov

### Truckee River Watershed

Birgit M. Henson, CPM  
Nonpoint Source Branch Supervisor  
Bureau of Water Quality Planning  
Nevada Division of Environmental Protection  
  
775.687.9550 bhenson@ndep.nv.gov