

## What Can You Do to Protect Your Drinking Water Source?

- **PROPERLY DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS** - Never pour on the ground, down the drain, or toilet: cleaning supplies, paints, solvents, lawn and garden chemicals, gasoline, motor oil, antifreeze, or other waste chemicals. Dispose of chemicals, petroleum, oil and other lubricant products/waste, medications, etc. properly.
- **PURCHASE SAFER ALTERNATIVE PRODUCTS** - Instead of hazardous household products and pesticides, choose natural alternatives or Green Products. Read product labels carefully before purchasing to determine what substances they contain.
- **USE FERTILIZERS, HERBICIDES AND PESTICIDES PROPERLY** - Apply chemicals according to label instructions and avoid runoff. Do not exceed recommended application rates.
- **GOOD LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT** - Keep animals and their waste out of streams, rivers, and lakes. Consider fencing off or bridging streams, applying and storing manure away from source waters, and manage grazing to maintain plant cover.
- **MAINTAIN YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM** - Inspect and pump your septic tank every 2-4 years. Do not drive over the tank or adjacent absorption field. Never flush down the toilet waste chemicals, dental floss, drugs, and personal care products.
- **DISPOSE OF PET WASTE PROPERLY** - Clean up and dispose of pet waste by flushing down the toilet, seal it in a plastic bag and put into the garbage, or bury under 8 inches of soil. Pick up your pet waste when walking your dog.
- **PETROLEUM STORAGE** - Above ground storage tanks should be made of high quality steel and located on a concrete pad that has secondary containment to guard against leaks and spills.
- **PRIVATE WATER WELLS** - Properly plug abandoned wells to prevent a direct route for contaminants to enter the ground water.
- **REPORT SPILLS ON ROADWAYS** - Report spills from vehicles on the roadways in the protection area by calling “911” so that local emergency response teams effectively contain and remediate the spill to prevent it from entering the waterways.
- **USING WATER WISELY—USE IT SPARINGLY.** Check for plumbing leaks. Use water-saving showerheads, toilets, faucets, and high efficiency appliances such as dishwashers and washing machines. Water only when necessary and preferably in the mornings or evenings to avoid evaporation losses from hot and windy weather conditions. Utilize mulch to reduce evaporation from the soil surface.
- **GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL WILDFIRE MITIGATION EFFORTS** - The consequences of a catastrophic wildfire poses danger to the Town of Carbondale drinking water intakes. The Carbondale and Rural FPD is currently educating the public on fire prevention, the thinning of trees, and erosion control techniques. Please call 970-963-2491 for more information.

## Town of Carbondale Source Water Protection



## Protecting Our Community Drinking Water Supply !!!

## Our Water Sources

The source water area for the Town of Carbondale includes the Nettle Creek watershed and portions of the Crystal and Roaring Fork River watersheds. Town of Carbondale serves approximately 6600 residents and other users in the service area annually. The water system currently has the capacity of meeting a peak daily demand of 4 million gallons/day and an average daily demand of approximately 600,000 gal/day.

## Source Water Protection

There is a growing effort in the country to protect drinking water sources before they become contaminated.

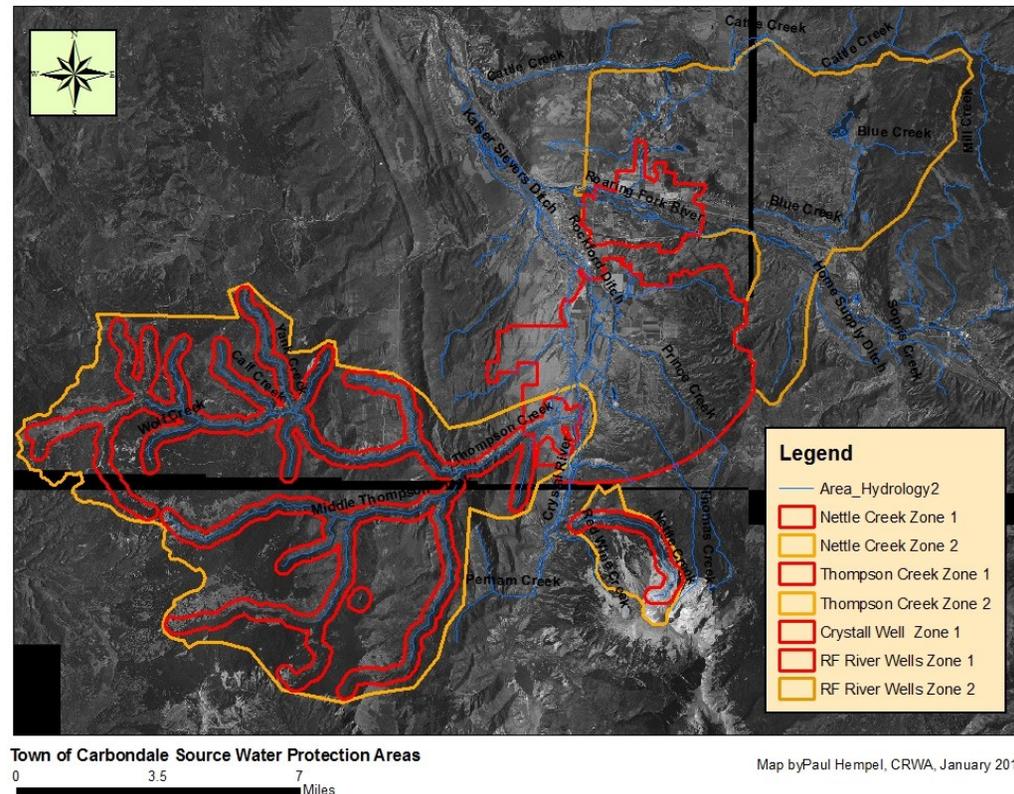
Why should Town of Carbondale protect its sources of drinking water?

- It is good for public health when drinking water supplies are protected.
- The costs of preventing contamination are very small compared to the costs of cleaning up after a contamination incident.
- Safe drinking water is essential to the community's quality of life and to aid in continued economic prosperity.

For generations, water quality was taken for granted and still today many people assume that our water is naturally protected. But, anything we do on top of the ground has the potential to affect someone's drinking water. As water moves through and over the ground, contaminants in and on the ground can be picked up and carried to a stream, river, reservoir or well that supplies drinking water to a home or a community.

Source water protection involves minimizing the negative water quality impacts on both land and water.

## Our Source Water Protection Areas



## Protection Planning Process

In February 2014, Town of Carbondale completed our Source Water Protection Plan. The Plan identifies: the area in need of protection, the potential sources of contaminants, and management approaches that could help reduce the risk of contaminants entering the source waters. Activities that have a potential to cause contamination include: transportation and roadways, agricultural practices, residential practices, septic systems, storage tanks, outdoor recreation, oil and gas operations and wildfire.

It is the people living and working in communities who have the most to gain or lose from the quality of their drinking water. Become an environmentally aware citizen and help avoid drinking water contamination.

To obtain a copy of the Source Water Protection Plan contact Town of Carbondale at (970) 963-3140 or Colorado Rural Water Association at (719) 545-6748.