

SAVING THE SIERRA

Grassroots Solutions for Sustaining Rural Communities
A One-Hour Radio Documentary by jesikah maria ross & Catherine Stifter



SUSTAINING RURAL PLACES TOOL KIT

Brought to you by the Sierra Business Council in partnership with Saving the Sierra

13 Ways to Help Your Watershed

1. Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams
2. Keep soil on your property - Nearly half of the U.S. population, including most rural residents, relies on groundwater for their water. Groundwater is the safest and most reliable form of freshwater for drinking and other uses. By keeping soil on your property, you can decrease your input of nutrient and contaminants into adjacent waterways and the groundwater.
3. Practice Best Management Practices with fertilizers and pesticides.
4. Practice landscaping that will reduce any site runoff that may contain residues from your property
5. Use fertilizers sparingly and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and gutters
6. Plant native plants that require less fertilizer
7. Plant ground cover in bare spots in your yard
8. Plant streamside vegetation to filter out nutrients
9. Use mulch or compost in place of fertilizer - Using mulch helps conserve water and decrease runoff or soil erosion by adding organic matter to soil, which captures water.
10. Conserve water - Adjust watering schedule to the season and by timing showers or turning off water while brushing your teeth. Washing only full loads of laundry and dishes. Remember, conserving water also conserves energy. In California, over 15% of total electricity consumption is devoted to water management.
11. Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway
12. Organize or join a clean up day to promote watershed awareness
13. Join a local group working to steward your local watershed

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Learn more about watershed health by visiting the following link:

United States Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov

California Watershed Action Plan

cwp.resources.ca.gov/watershed_action_plan.html

Sierra Nevada Alliance

www.sierranevadaalliance.org

Sierra Business Council

www.sbcouncil.org

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