



# **City of Cañon City**

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## **First Quarter 2009 Stormwater Management Program News**

I would like to thank everyone that has called, emailed or sent letters with their stormwater concerns over the last three months. Your input is always valuable to assist in pinpointing areas that need more attention and will be useful in the development of future strategies for stormwater management and ideas for subsequent newsletters.

The 2009 newsletters will continue to focus on the program elements of our stormwater management permit from the State of Colorado. By discussing each element in detail, I hope to increase your understanding and awareness of our program. The areas that will be discussed in this and subsequent issues include: 1) Public Education, Information, Participation, and Involvement; 2) Illegal Discharge Detection and Elimination; 3) Construction and Post-construction Stormwater Management and 4) Municipal Operations Pollution Prevention.

### **Public Education, Information, Participation and Involvement.**

The goal of this program element is to increase your awareness of the effects that stormwater run-off may have on local water quality and to get everyone involved, in some way, in improving the quality of our natural waters by reducing the impact associated with pollutants in stormwater run-off. Our state permit requires us to implement a public education and outreach program to increase public involvement using the elements listed below:

- 1) **Forming Partnerships** – The City of Cañon City’s Stormwater Department currently is a member or is involved with several entities such as the Colorado Stormwater Council, The Upper Arkansas Watershed Council, and the Upper Arkansas Recycling Program. Working with entities such as these helps to provide resources for information on the latest technology and techniques in stormwater management as well as opportunities to involve the public in stormwater issues.
- 2) **Educational Materials and Strategies** – We use a variety of methods to reach out to the public to increase awareness of stormwater issues and encourage involvement. This includes such programs as the quarterly newsletter, the Stormwater website (which is in the process of being re-vamped), demonstrations and talks at local schools and organizations, a contest to design stormwater murals to be displayed on the side of river rafting shuttle buses and public service announcements on KRLN and programs on CCTV-Channel 19.
- 3) **Signage and Stenciling** – We annually stencil a minimum of 25 storm drain inlets with the message “Dump No Waste Drains to River”. We do this with the assistance of local students or citizens. The murals chosen from the contest are displayed over the summer on the side of river rafting shuttle buses.



Garden Park Students Stenciling a Stormdrain



Bus Mural

- 4) **Reaching Diverse Audiences** – With the strategies listed above as well as personal contact with the public we can reach students, citizens, business owners and visitors to our city.
- 5) **Illicit Discharge Education to Businesses and the Public** – We utilize the newsletters, website and personal contact to educate people about illegal discharges to the stormwater system and ways to avoid these discharges. The Stormwater Hotline (276-5265) allows anyone to contact us with their concerns and questions.
- 6) **Public Notices** – The City of Cañon City posts all public meetings on a public bulletin board inside City Hall, 128 Main Street, at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. In addition, a notice is printed in the newspaper.
- 7) **Mechanism and Processes for Public Involvement/Feedback** – The public is encouraged to contact us with their concerns and questions and to report any suspected illegal discharges either by mail, email, phone or in person. Contact information is available on the website, through the newsletters or by calling City Hall.

So, as you can see, we have quite a few elements that we are required to meet for our state stormwater permit. I would like to encourage anyone with ideas for public involvement programs or who is interested in the existing programs and presentations to contact me at 276-5265.



**Remember:** The responsibility for keeping our City's and State's waterways clean for all to enjoy ultimately falls to everyone in the choices they make. Please make wise choices.

Please feel free to direct any concerns or questions to Glenda DeBekker, City of Cañon City Stormwater Program at either [grdebekker@canoncity.org](mailto:grdebekker@canoncity.org) or 276-5265. You may also write to The City of Cañon City's Stormwater Program, P.O. Box 1460, Cañon City, CO 81215-1460.