

## Mural Challenge

Do you want to be part of a community effort to improve the water quality of the Arkansas River? Are you a clandestine creator or a closet graphic artist? Do you have to repress your urges to draw graffiti in public? If you fit any of the above, the City needs you!

To increase public awareness of the potential impact that polluted stormwater runoff can have on the Arkansas River, the City is going to produce murals that will be mounted on river rafting shuttle busses. Themes and artwork for the

**RUNOFF THAT ENTERS THE  
STORMDRAIN IS DISCHARGED  
UNTREATED DIRECTLY INTO THE  
ARKANSAS RIVER**

murals will be generated by local students and civic organizations. It will then be professionally reproduced to be publicly displayed.

For more information regarding this contest or stormwater runoff management, or if you wish to schedule a presentation regarding this topic, contact:

**Rik Gay—Stormwater Program**  
**276-5265 or 240-5325**  
**[rlgay@canoncity.org](mailto:rlgay@canoncity.org)**

**YOUR RIVER  
NEEDS YOU!**

City of Cañon City  
Engineering Dept.



Stormwater  
Management  
Program  
News

COMMUNITY  
EDITION

# STORMWATER HOTLINE

## 276-5265

**CALL THIS NUMBER TO REPORT AN ILLICIT DISCHARGE!**

### City Ordinance Prohibits Illicit Discharges

**Illicit Discharge** is defined as any direct or indirect discharge, other than stormwater, into the City's Storm Sewer System, including gutters!

City Ordinance provides enforcement and civil penalties of up to

**\$250 per violation per day!**

## RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE DO NOT POLLUTE!

The City Stormwater Program is working diligently promoting the use of in-line sediment controls for gutters, flowlines and stormwater inlets to prevent sediment from construction activities, **the #1 source of water pollution**, from entering the stormwater system and ultimately discharging into the Arkansas River.

Voluntary compliance by local contractors and developers has been very good and the City has been using these controls on their own construction locations. However, vandalism to the inlet protection and curb socks has hampered our efforts to control sediment in stormwater runoff.

Excess sediment entering the river via the stormdrains impairs the quality of the Arkansas in a number of ways. First, it reduces the available habitat for aquatic insects, the primary source food for fish. Sediment fills in the small spaces created by the rocks and gravels in the streambed which are utilized by the insects as living space.

The City collected representative macroinvertebrate (aquatic insects) population samples from the Arkansas River both upstream and downstream of Cañon City. Analysis of those representative samples indicated that sediment from the City's stormwater system is adversely impacting those insect's population.

Too much sediment in the river clouds the water and makes it difficult for aquatic plants to receive the sunlight they need to grow. Excess sediment also clogs fish gills.

## THE CITY OF CAÑON CITY STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MISSION IS TO PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF THE ARKANSAS RIVER



**Properly installed inlet protection keeps sediment and other debris from discharging into the stormdrain & ultimately into the Arkansas River**



**The inlet protection above was intentionally moved during a storm event causing a serious discharge of sediment into the stormdrain**

To avoid these impacts to the River we must continue to make every effort to keep sediment off of the street and out of the stormwater system. When inlet protection or check dams in the gutters are disturbed, repositioned or otherwise vandalized, their effectiveness is drastically reduced.

The primary function of sediment control is to slow and filter stormwater discharge so that the sediment has time to drop out before the water is discharged into the stormdrain.

This can cause some minor temporary localized flooding but when left undisturbed, as in the photo above left, they function very well. Once the runoff event is over, City crews or contractors then remove the accumulated sediment so the controls are ready for the next precipitation event.

When sediment controls are disturbed, however, the results can be self-defeating and in fact, can cause more damage as noted in the photo to the left. Someone had intentionally pulled the inlet protection away from the curb which caused all the sediment and debris that had been held back to discharge all at once, plugging the stormdrain.

This action could constitute an intentional discharge of pollutants into the stormdrain and ultimately into the Arkansas River, which is a violation of local, State and Federal water quality laws!!!!

These controls are there for the community. Do not disturb them. If you see someone vandalizing them, call the City and report it.