

# Xap Tlewetos

~in the Hanis Coos language, this phrase translates to: Water Is Life

The peoples of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians have always deeply understood the importance of water and developed specific life ways by which to obtain it and use it ceremoniously and benevolently. They took scrupulous measures to ensure that they didn't contaminate the waters that they used and that they remained pristine for their two-legged and four-legged brothers and sisters with which they shared it and for future use.

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For more information on non-point source pollution, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/polluted-runoff-nonpoint-source-pollution/what-nonpoint-source>

# Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians

## Non-Point Source Pollution Program

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[www.ctclusi.org](http://www.ctclusi.org)

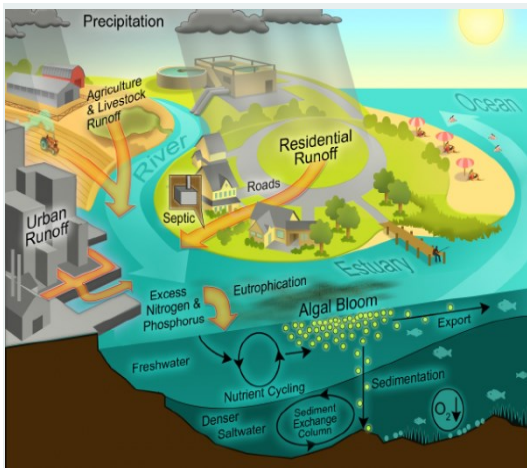
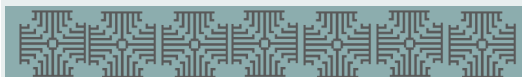


Image Credit: Hans W. Paerl 2006

**Non-Point Source Pollution** is a combination of various pollutants from spread out sources. Pollutants can range from excess agrochemicals, including fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, and fungicides, to automobile pollution, household chemicals, paints and solvents. Sedimentation is one of the leading water quality issues associated with non-point source pollution, which is facilitated by logging, roads, and construction. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), as seen in the picture above, can be caused by excess nutrient loading and is also another water quality issue that not only affects the biodiversity of our waters, but also affects the health and availability of natural resources, such as fish and weaving materials as well as the health of community members that utilize these resources and waters.

Unlike point sources that are relatively easy to locate, monitor and control, nonpoint sources - those that are from multiple sites - are much more difficult to identify and control. Nevertheless, nonpoint source pollution continues to be one of the largest contributors to water quality impairments.

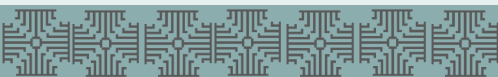


## WHAT THE TRIBES DO

Today, the Tribes continue to ensure that the waters in which they have depended on for thousands of years remains clean by increasing environmental awareness and promoting stewardship and sustainable use and best management practices through education and outreach programs.



Working with stakeholders, agencies, industries, and local private landowners to develop collaborative projects that mitigate degradation and improve overall water quality conditions is also another strategy that the Tribes utilize.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

### Gardens:

- Try to use natural fertilizers, such as banana peels, fish meal, poultry manure, etc.
- Refrain from using pesticides and herbicides whenever possible

### Leave No Trace:

- While out on family adventures, leave the environment better than you found out by packing out your waste products and anything else you find that may harm the environment.

### Recycle:

- *School, Work, and Home*— local trash facilities offer free recycling for many household products (Check your local area for details on which items can be recycled)

### Storm Drains:

- Switch to less harmful car wash soaps
- Prevent auto fluids and household chemicals from entering storm drains

### Rain Gardens:

- Where practicable, work with your local neighborhood/city planner to plant rain gardens to capture runoff from roads to filter storm runoff and produce beautiful gardens.

