

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. Participate in household hazardous waste collection events. Contact the Saguache County Landfill for more information.
- **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.
- **CONTINUE GOOD LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT**
- **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.
- **PRIVATE WATER WELLS** - Properly plug abandoned water wells and protect existing 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 can effectively contain and remediate the spill to prevent it from entering the waterways.
- **PETROLEUM STORAGE** - All underground storage tanks greater than 110 gallons and aboveground storage tanks greater than 660 gallons require a permit from the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment Division of Oil and Public Safety and compliance with State regulations. Above ground storage tanks should be made of high quality steel and located on a concrete pad (or other impermeable surface) that has secondary containment to guard against leaks and spills. Consider using stock tanks as a secondary containment for private fuel storage tanks.
- **PROPERLY DISPOSE OF DRUGS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS** - Participate in medication take back programs when available. As an alternative, pour medications into a sealable plastic bag and add kitty litter, sawdust, or coffee grounds. Seal the bag and dispose in the trash along with unused personal care products.
- **TREAD LIGHTLY ON PUBLIC LANDS** - Visitors, residents and users of Public Lands should obey all rules to protect the natural resources. Use motorized vehicles only on system routes identified with signage or appropriate maps. While in the backcountry, pack it in and pack it out. Keep informed on forest and land management issues, participate in the planning activities related to public lands and work together with your public land managers.
- **GET INVOLVED IN LOCAL SOURCE WATER PROTECTION EFFORTS** - Check the Town’s website for more information on protecting your drinking water source.



Town of Saguache Source Water Protection Plan



Protecting Our Drinking Water Supply

For More Information Contact the
Town of Saguache at
(719) 655-2232

Our Water Source

The Town of Saguache provides high quality drinking water to 485 residents. Saguache's source of drinking water is from 2 groundwater wells completed in the unconfined aquifer of the San Luis Valley.

Source Water Protection

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

Why should the Saguache community protect its sources of drinking water?

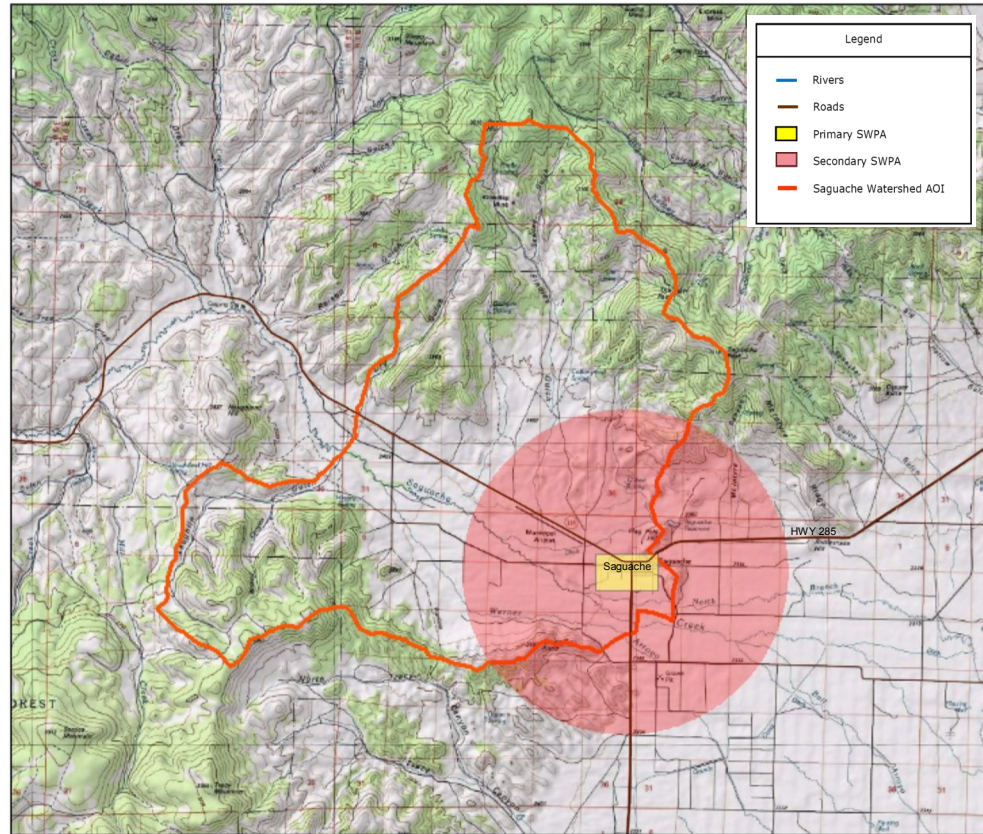
- Safe drinking water is essential to the community's quality of life and to aid in continued economic sustainability.
- It is good for public health when drinking water supplies are protected.
- The costs of preventing contamination are very small compared to the costs of cleaning up after a contamination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

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.

Today, the Town is surrounded by working ranches. The owners of these ranches have been good stewards of the land, which historically has prevented the contamination of the Town's water supply.

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

Saguache's Source Water Protection Areas



Protection Planning Process

In November 2011, stakeholders within the Saguache community worked together to complete a Source Water Protection Plan. The Plan identifies: the area in need of protection, the potential sources of contaminants, and management approaches that could help to reduce the risk of contaminants entering the source waters. Activities that have a potential to cause pollution include: fuel storage tanks, impacts from transportation on roads, mining activity, wastewater - sewer and septic systems, agricultural activities, flooding and stormwater runoff, town drain system, private water wells, public land management, residential and business practices, and the old town dump.

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 the Town of Saguache at (719) 655-2232.

Saguache's Mission Statement: *"To engage the community in the protection of Saguache's drinking water sources by fostering stewardship of the watershed through education and outreach."*