



Test your nonpoint source water pollution IQ

Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution, unlike pollution from factory effluent pipes and other specific sources, comes from many diffuse sources and is blown by the wind or washed over the land surface and into streams by rainfall or snowmelt. Answers are below. *Circle correct answer(s).*

- Overgrazing contributes to NPS pollution because bare ground is more susceptible to erosion and the subsequent release of _____ into waterways.
 - earthworms
 - sediment
 - nutrients
 - b. and c.
- To keep herbicides from running off of the land and into streams, you should:
 - never use herbicides
 - only use herbicides when there is no chance of rain for a week
 - always follow label instructions carefully
- Corrals should be managed such that runoff never drains directly into a stream because of the potential for _____ contamination.
 - fecal bacteria
 - mercury
 - nutrients like nitrate
 - a. and c.
- If you have a stream near a livestock pasture, NPS pollution can be minimized by:
 - fencing to maintain a vegetation buffer strip along the stream bank
 - developing upland stock watering tanks
 - never letting your animals out of the barn
 - a. and b.
- Controlling noxious weeds can help reduce NPS pollution because weeds may:
 - release weed seeds that can be poisonous to livestock and other animals
 - crowd out native grasses that keep soil from eroding
 - increase the chance of rangeland fires, which increase sediment runoff
 - b. and c.

For more information go to: www.epa.gov/nps/



Answers: 1b, 2c, 3d, 4d, 5d.