

4.2 POLLUTANT SOURCE CONTROL

Urban land uses around the Lake Tahoe Region can generate pollutants such as sediment, nutrients, heavy metals, pesticides, oil and grease, and hazardous materials; all which can impact surface water, groundwater, soils, aquatic ecosystems, and human health.

Source control BMPs are standard practices that help avoid and minimize the release of pollutants from various land use activities into the environment. Rather than expending time and limited resources to treat pollutants that have been displaced into surface or ground waters, source control prevents or minimizes the pollutant loading at the source. Pollutant source control BMPs are the first line of defense to prevent pollution of surface and ground waters of the Lake Tahoe Region.

ROADWAY AND PARKING LOT POLLUTANT PREVENTION

Highways, roads, and parking lots are the primary contributors of fine sediment into Lake Tahoe, the leading cause of water clarity decline. Other pollutants that accumulate on asphalt surfaces and become entrained in stormwater include nutrients, salts, oil and grease, and heavy metals. Frequent and appropriate management of asphalt surfaces will provide many pollutant source control benefits, and prevent premature clogging and failure of downstream infiltration and treatment based BMPs. Following proper application and timing of abrasives and deicing agents, conducting frequent street sweeping, and storing snow in designated areas away from surface waters can drastically minimize these pollutants from degrading surface and ground waters.