

What **You** can do to Protect our 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 hazardous waste collection events.

Purchase safer alternative products-

Instead of hazardous household products and pesticides, choose natural alternatives or Green Products. Read product labels carefully before purchase.

Use fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides properly-

Apply chemicals according to label instructions and avoid runoff. Don't exceed recommended application rates.

Practice 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 or 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 it in the garbage or bury under 8 inches of soil. Always pick up 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 above ground 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.

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 out our website for information on protecting your drinking water.

Contact us

Phone: 303-530-4200

Email: ebaile@lefthandwater.org

Web: www.lefthandwater.org

In case of spill or emergency:

Call 911 or 303-530-4200



Source Water Protection Plan



*Protecting Our
Drinking Water . . .*

Left Hand Watershed Water Protection Area

Our Water Sources . . .

Left Hand Water District provides high quality drinking water to over 19,000 people in a region between Boulder and Longmont. The raw water is drawn from two sources: (1) Left Hand Creek, via intakes about 1 mile West of U.S. 36 on Left Hand Canyon Drive; and (2) the Upper Colorado River, via the Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

Source Water Protection . . .

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

Why should the Left Hand Water District community protect its drinking water sources?

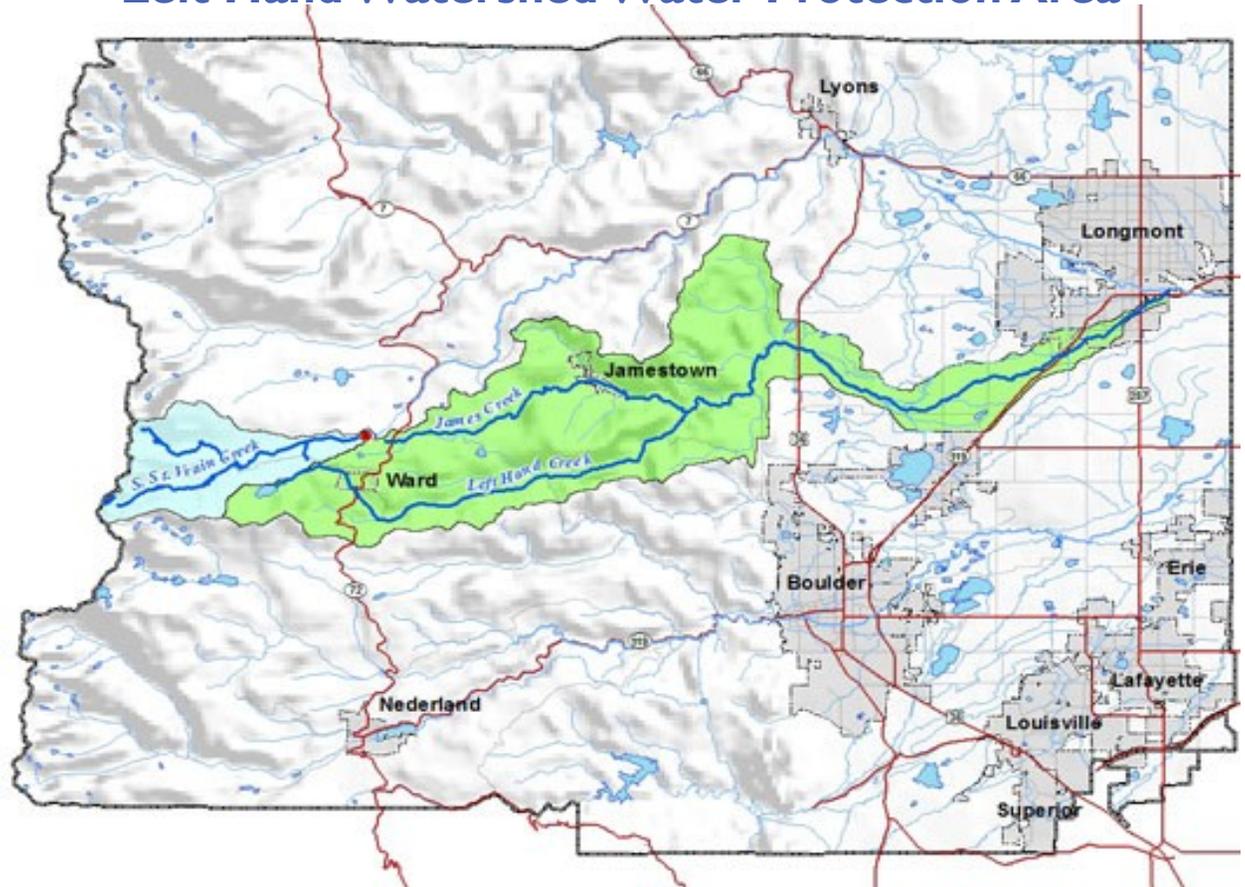
Safe drinking water is essential to the community's quality of life and aids in continued economic sustainability.

When drinking water supplies are protected so is public health.

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 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 community.

The Colorado River water obtained from the Colorado-Big Thompson Project is relatively pristine, being derived mostly from the protected area of Rocky Mountain National Park. While Left Hand Creek is generally typical of small natural streams flowing from the Rocky Mountains onto open parts of the Great Plains, this watershed does have some human activities and natural features that can influence the quality of raw creek water.



These include former mining sites, transportation infrastructure, septic systems, agricultural lands, naturally occurring metals in some soils, business and residential activities, and sediment disturbed by the 2013 flood. Landowners have typically been good stewards of the land, thereby helping to preserve water quality. The treatment plants operated by Left Hand Water District ensure that the drinking water provided to customers meets or exceeds all applicable standards.

Source water protection provides an inexpensive, effective, extra layer of protection to ensure that the human and natural sources of potential contamination do not compromise the quality of our drinking water.

Protection Planning Process . . .

Between 2008 and 2010 stakeholders in the Left Hand Watershed worked with Left Hand Water District and Colorado Rural Water Association 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.

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 see the Source Water Protection Plan or a copy of this brochure, use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/LHWDSWPP> or contact Left Hand Water District: at 303-530-4200.