

PLUGGED IN

FUN FOR KIDS

A COOPERATIVE PROJECT OF THE SANTA BARBARA NEWS-PRESS AND THE EDUCATORS' ROUNDTABLE, PUBLISHED MONTHLY TO PROMOTE LEARNING AMONG YOUNG READERS IN NATURAL SCIENCE, HISTORY, TECHNOLOGY AND ART

GET connected connected

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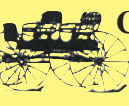
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805-964-3540; www.goletadepot.org

This Month's Theme: Healthy Creeks

Storm Drains: Don't Let It Go Down The Drain!

Do you know where rainwater goes if it does not soak into the ground? Where does the water go that runs off your driveway when you wash your car? Water that doesn't soak into the ground goes onto the streets. The water from the streets goes into **storm drains**. All the water from the storm drains empties right into our creeks and ocean.

Storm drains are different from the drains in your house. When water goes down the drain in your house it goes into the sewer system. Water in the sewer system is cleaned so you can use it again. Water that goes into storm drains is not cleaned. When water travels over our streets and through our gardens it can pick up pollutants. This polluted water goes into the storm drains and ends up in our creeks and oceans without being cleaned! Soap, oil on the road from cars, pesticides and fertilizers from our gardens, and animal waste from our pets can all cause water pollution!

If you don't want to swim in polluted water next time you go to the beach, please



This storm drain empties water from the parking lot at Arroyo Burro Beach right into the creek.



Sewer lines take water from your house to a treatment plant to be cleaned.

help keep the water in storm drains clean by picking up your trash and pet waste. To learn other ways to keep our creeks and ocean clean, visit the Watershed Resource Center. Remember, we only want clean water to go down the storm drain. Only Rain Down the Drain!

Helping Steelhead Trout



Steelhead fishing on Carpinteria Creek, 1942.

Have you ever seen a really big fish swimming in a creek? When your grandparents were young there were lots of fish in the creeks. One special kind of fish is the Steelhead trout. Sixty years ago you could see many large (18-inch) Steelhead trout in the creeks, but today you would be lucky to see any.

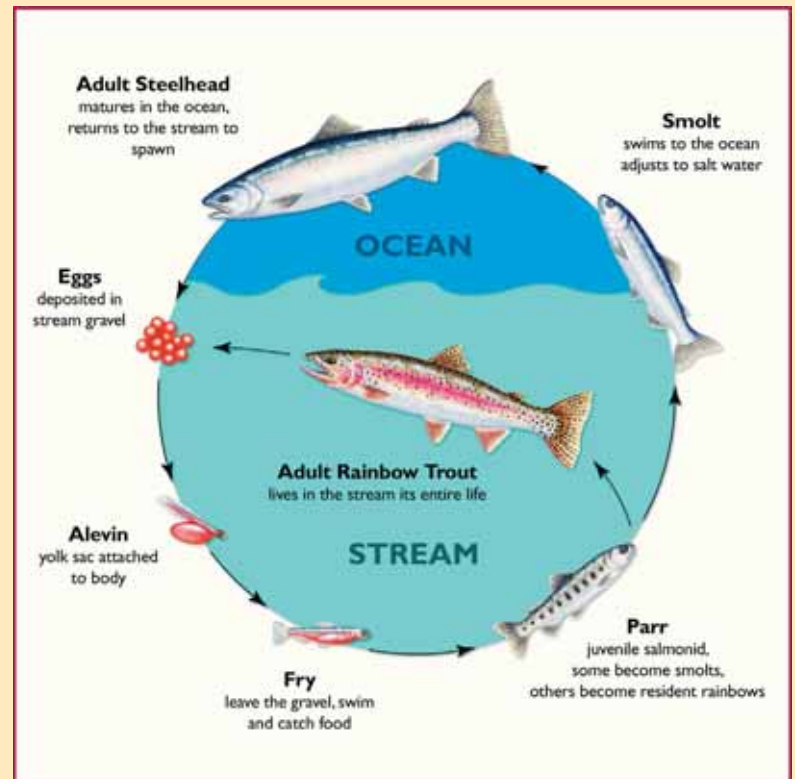
What happened to all the Steelhead trout? Many people think that fisherman took too many fish out of the creeks. The real reason why Steelhead trout are hard to find is that their habitat has changed.

A habitat is where something lives. Steelhead trout live in both fresh water and ocean habitats. They are hatched in a stream and then live in the ocean when they grow up. Over the years people

have made big changes in stream habitats. Construction of roads and bridges allows people to drive to work and go on trips. The roads and bridges that help people move sometimes block streams. Steelhead trout cannot swim up and down the streams when they are blocked.

These fish need to swim from the ocean into the streams to lay their eggs. They also need to swim from the streams into the ocean when they grow up. If the streams are blocked, they cannot swim between the stream habitat and the ocean habitat and will not be able to survive. There is good news! People are doing something to help the Steelhead trout!

There is a plan to take out barriers in creeks to help Steelhead trout swim to and from the



Steelhead trout live part of their lives in fresh water streams and part of their lives in the ocean.

ocean. If you want to find out more about Steelhead trout and what you can do to help them, contact Mike Mowers at the Watershed Resource Center (682-6113).

Healthy Creeks Word Search

Find these hidden words that relate to healthy creeks in the word search below. The words are hidden in the puzzle several different ways: forwards, backwards, vertically and diagonally. Good luck!

STEELHEAD HABITAT BARRIER STORMDRAIN
POLLUTION FERTILIZER PESTICIDE
OIL SOAP SEWER



Page by Mike Mowers and Kelley Neumann, The Community Environmental Council's South Coast Watershed Resource Center

SANTA BARBARA CREEK WEEK October 2-10

Creek Week activities are a great way for you and your family to Have Fun, Learn About Water and Get Involved With Creeks!

Creek Week Calendar of Events for Kids and Families

Sunday October 3

Goleta Stream Team. Get involved and help keep Goleta creeks clean and healthy. For more information call Leigh Ann Grabowsky at Santa Barbara Channel Keeper 563-3377 x 3. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Tuesday October 5

Tour Carpinteria Salt Marsh and Coal Oil Point. Only 10% of California's native wetlands are left intact and we are lucky to have these two protected sites on the south coast. For more information call Darcy Aston at the County Water Agency 568-3546. All ages are welcome!


Saturday October 9

Harbor Festival. The all-day event showcases Santa Barbara's historic working harbor, harbor businesses, and Maritime Museum. Festival highlights include boat rides, musical entertainment, diver demonstrations, museum tours, craft booths, raffles and plenty of fresh seafood. Call the Waterfront Office for more information 564-5531.

Sunday October 10

Creek Kids' Fest at the Watershed Resource Center. KIDS - come and have fun learning about creeks and watersheds. There will be games, crafts, experiments, live birds from Eyes in the Sky and much more! Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information call Mike Mowers (682-6113).

 **USDA Forest Service, Los Padres National Forest**
805-968-6640; www.r5.fs.fed.us/lospadres

 **South Coast Watershed Resource Center**
805-682-6113
www.WatershedResourceCenter.org

 **Santa Barbara Public Library System**
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www.sbplibrary.org

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