

Drainage & Erosion Control Plan



Pitkin County Community Development

Why is Drainage and Erosion Control Important?

Pitkin County is a headwaters community with rivers and streams that generally have very high water quality. To help ensure that the County's water resources remain in pristine condition, development in unincorporated Pitkin County must implement responsible construction management practices and manage stormwater runoff from disturbed areas. **The submittal of a detailed drainage and erosion control plan is required with every building, access and earthmoving permit application.**

Stream Sedimentation:

Sedimentation of our streams degrades habitat essential for many aquatic organisms. Our recreation-based economy depends highly on the quality of our waters for fishing, boating, and overall appeal of the Roaring Fork, Fryingpan and Crystal River Valleys.

Human Health:

Many of us get our water from streams and creeks in Pitkin County. Others get it from groundwater wells. The quality of our surface water and groundwater is highly dependent upon human behavior. In order to protect our drinking water sources and the health of our community, Best Management Practices (BMPs) to control sedimentation and the movement of organic and inorganic pollutants must be put in place and maintained throughout the life of any construction/development project.

Drainage and Erosion Control Plan Requirements:

- The identification of potential watercourses affected by stormwater runoff
- An accurate calculation of the area of disturbance
- Type and location of Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Long-term stabilization methods
- Revegetation plan
- Details outlining installation and maintenance of BMPs.
- Description of on-site water management practices.
- Description of methods for management of construction water (non-stormwater) discharges.

If the total area of disturbance is equal to or greater than one acre a Colorado Construction Stormwater Permit (SWMP) is required.



Area of Disturbance,

is defined as the total area at the site where any construction activity is expected to result in disturbance of the ground surface. This includes, but is not limited to, access, clearing, grading, excavation and demolition activities, as well as haul roads and areas used for staging where traffic will result in the disturbance of the ground surface, septic, and leach field installation, irrigation installation and landscaping.

Sources

Pitkin County Planning Department;
970-429-2799

Colorado Nonpoint Source Pollution Program; <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/nps/>

Colorado Water Quality Control Division; <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/>

Colorado Stormwater Construction Permitting; www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/PermitsUnit/index.html

Best Management Practices;
www.bmpdatabase.org

EPA BMP Menu; cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater/menuofbmps/index.cfm

For all County requirements see the Pitkin County Land Use Code:
<http://www.aspenpitkin.com/Departments/County-Code/>