



“Phosphates in the stream”

You are camping and you have run out of clean clothes for the trip. You decide to wash a tee shirt in the stream that runs through your camp. You only have dish soap with you (which has phosphates in it). You walk down to the side of the stream and begin to wash your shirt in the water. Soap bubbles float downstream in the current. What are the negative effects of high amounts of sediment in a stream?

- Is there anything wrong with the decision to wash your clothing in the stream with dish detergent?

- What effects do phosphates have on the water quality?

- What are sources of phosphates?

- What law would you be violating by washing your shirt in the stream with soap?