

What you do could potentially harm an entire community's drinking water source.



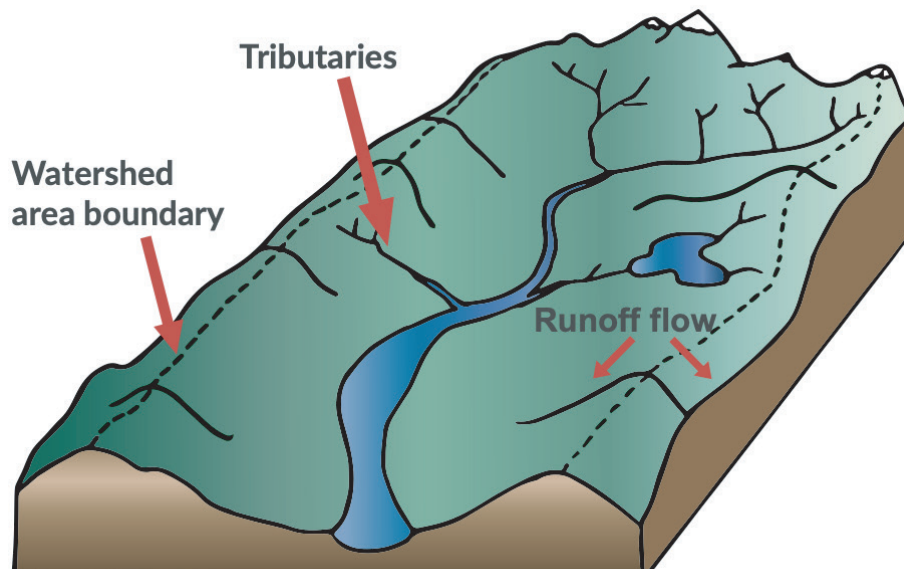
ATV and UTV Usage within a Protected Public Water Supply Area

What is a Protected Public Water Supply Area (PPWSA)?

A PPWSA is an area of land around a public drinking water source that has been protected under Section 39 of the Water Resources Act and typically includes the area of land where all precipitation drains towards the water supply intake. The boundary is generally based on topography for surface sources such as ponds and rivers.

Am I inside a PPWSA?

If you are unsure whether a location may fall within one of these protected areas, you can check the mapping application within the Water Resources Portal here: maps.gov.nl.ca/water, or contact the nearest Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) office. You may also see signs posted along trails stating that you are in a PPWSA.





Need more info?

Before recreational trails are constructed inside PPWSA's, approval is required under Section 39 of the Water Resources Act. A guideline booklet on developing trails inside PPWSAs is available here: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccc/files/Guidelines-for-Construction-and-Maintenance-of-ATV-Trails-Inside-PPWSA-2017.pdf>

Snowmobiling inside a PPWSA?

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/eccc/files/Snowmobiling-Activities-Inside-a-PPWSA-2025.pdf>

How can ATVs and UTVs affect the environment?

Recreational vehicles can do a lot of damage to the ground, especially when used off-trail or on trails that have not been properly designed or maintained. Some negative impacts that can degrade water quality include:

- Trail degradation
- Soil erosion and sedimentation
- Fuel spills
- Long-term damage to wetlands
- Noise pollution
- Wildlife disturbances
- Soil compaction

How can I help?

Here are a list of things to keep in mind when operating an ATV or UTV inside a PPWSA:

- Stay on approved trail routes
- Avoid traveling during wet conditions
- Avoid travel over wetlands
- Numerous approvals are required if installing trail systems
- Take out what you take in

Let us work together to safeguard our drinking water supplies.

Water Resources Management Division

Email: water@gov.nl.ca

Telephone: (709) 729- 2563

