

Where To Go For More Information And Help

Oregon Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Division
Water Quality Program

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http://www.oregon.gov/ODANRD/water_quality_front.shtml

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

Oregon's 45 SWCDs provide technical and financial assistance to landowners and have no regulatory role. Consult your phonebook or use the following internet address to find the SWCD nearest you.

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/SWCD/>



All publications produced by ODA will be made available in alternate formats when needed

Watershed Councils

Watershed councils are locally organized, voluntary, non-regulatory groups established to improve the conditions of watersheds in their local area. Use the following internet address to find the watershed council nearest you.

<http://www.oregonwatersheds.org/whatcouncil>

Oregon State University Extension Service

The Oregon State University Extension Service engages the people of Oregon with research-based knowledge and education that focus on strengthening communities and economies, sustaining natural resources, and promoting healthy families and individuals.

Online Publications:
<http://extension.oregonstate.edu/eesc/>

Streamside Vegetation: Good for People, Plants and Animals

Oregon Department of Agriculture

2009



Why is Streamside Vegetation Important?

1) **Helps store water for later release**

- Stores large quantities of runoff and releases it slowly to the channel by groundwater discharge.
- Delays and reduces peak flow, which decreases flood damage.

2) **Potential Income for Landowners**

- Wood products.
- Improved forage.
- Hunting and fishing.
- Increased property values.

- Prevents bank erosion and saves economically important cropland.

- Reduces soil loss by an estimated 77 to 97%.

3) **Key to controlling many water pollution problems.**

- Filters polluted runoff and groundwater.
- Reported reductions are 50 to 85 % for phosphorus, and 67 to 89% for nitrogen.

4) **Vital for fish habitat.**

- Provides shade that helps to control stream heating.
- When you remove riparian vegetation, stream temperatures can increase from 2 °F to 23 °F.
- Provides woody debris for fish hiding cover and creates resting pools.
- Provides food for water loving insects, which are food for fish.

5) **Protecting Streamside Vegetation is the Law**

Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act requires landowners conducting agricultural activities on private land to allow the establishment and development of adequate streamside vegetation.

This does not preclude using areas near streams. The law requires proper management.