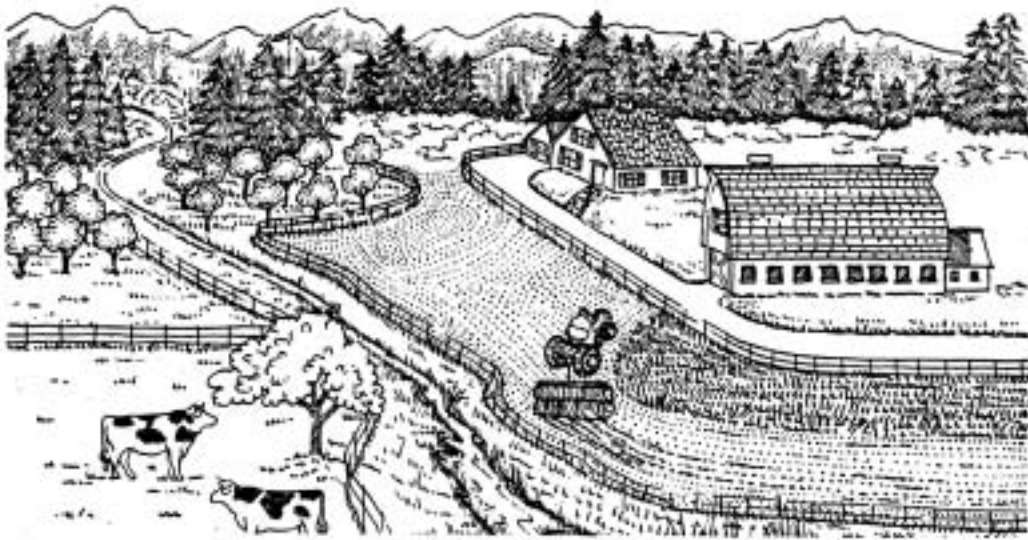


# Sediment Management

## *Fact Sheet*



- Streams carrying excessive sediment loads have an adverse impact on good water quality.
- Some sediment runoff is natural, however, erosion and sedimentation is accelerated by removing the protective layer of vegetation during grazing, timber harvest, tillage, or construction.
- Many of the measures taken to reduce sediment runoff, such as installing vegetated buffer strips, also reduce nutrient runoff, enhance riparian functions, and contribute to wildlife habitat.

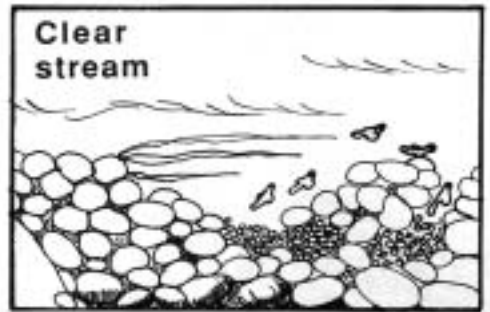
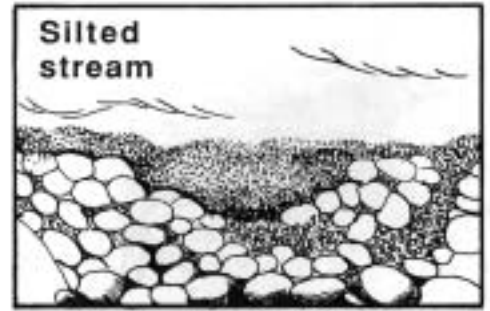


## *Excessive sediment levels negatively affect beneficial uses.*

**Sediment clogs filters** at drinking water treatment plants and in homes making water “cloudy” and unpleasant. Treatment for sediment in drinking water is extremely expensive. Erosion control of sediments may be more cost effective.

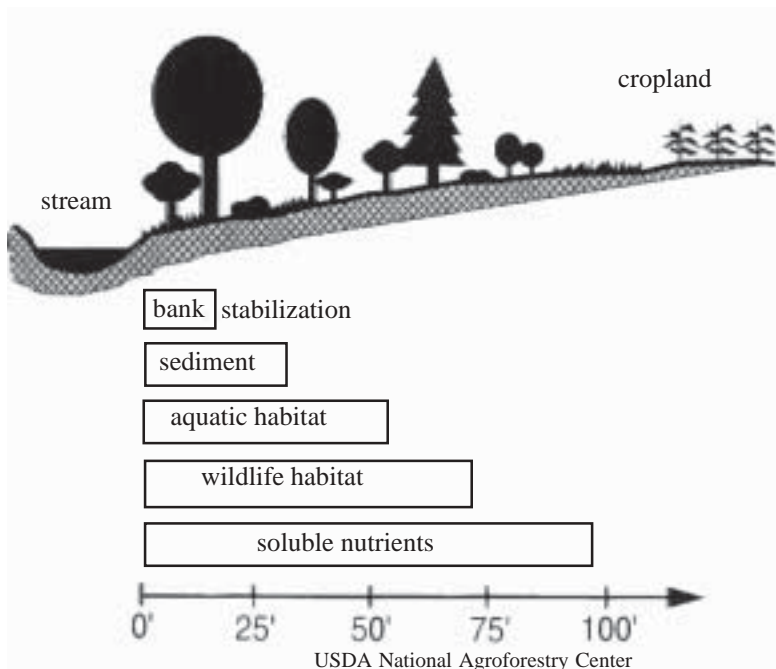
**Stream bottoms** covered with fine sediments, called silt, can no longer be used by spawning fish, and will suffocate eggs left in the gravel. Large sediment deposits can block the way to upper spawning reaches. Suspended sediments clog the gills of fish, decrease dissolved oxygen levels, inhibit fish feeding and growth, and cause macroinvertebrate levels to drop.

Besides these direct impacts, other **secondary effects** can be attributed to sediments. Pesticides and nutrients can bind to sediments and can be carried into waterways in greater proportions than by water flow without sediments.



## *Keep Soil On Your Land*

**Coos County** has soil types, topography, flooding events, and weather conditions that in themselves make sediment reduction difficult. Although it is recognized that these natural conditions do exist, adoption and promotion of Positive Management Practices will aid in decreasing man caused sediment entering the waterways.



**A sediment control measure**, such as the use of grass or forested buffer strips, can greatly reduce erosion rates. Buffers of trees, shrubs, and/or grass slow water speed, filter pollutants, and trap sediment. They are used to protect streams, lakes, ponds, and ditches, and to stop sediment at the lower edge of field crops.

Since many operations in Coos County are a mixture of forestry, ranching, and farming, it is important that sediment control be individually designed to fit each operation.

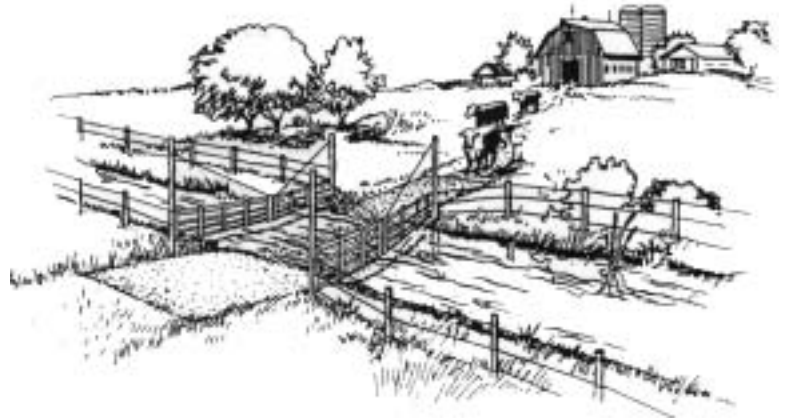
*At left*, the approximate width of buffers are shown for specific purposes.

Contact NRCS or FSA for technical and financial assistance with buffers or other sediment control measures. See back for contact information.

The following management practices have been recommended by the Coos and Coquille Local Advisory Committee and the Oregon Department of Agriculture as a means to avoid water quality problems.

## Positive Management Practices

- ◆ Divert runoff from farm structures away from heavily used areas.
- ◆ When constructing new cranberry beds or fields for planting, take measures to control sediment leaving the farm.
- ◆ Maintain private farm roads to prevent erosion and degradation of embankments.
- ◆ When pasturing livestock, minimize sediment delivery near waterways and riparian areas.
- ◆ Manage waterways for livestock watering and crossings such that livestock use is limited to only the amount of time necessary for watering and/or crossing the waterway.
- ◆ Design riparian area management to prevent and reduce erosion in surface runoff.
- ◆ Use, as appropriate, fencing (either permanent or temporary) or other activities to reduce damage to riparian areas.



## Conditions That May Lead To A Water Quality Problem

- ◆ Gullies or large amounts of soil loss present on or arising from privately owned farm roads that enter waterways.
- ◆ Activities on or near streambanks that cause large amounts of earth to erode and deliver sediment to waterways.

## Unacceptable Condition

- ◆ Harmful soil loss into waterways from agricultural activities.

The following OAR concerning sediment management was developed from the Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan which was adopted in March 2002.

### **Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 603-095-1540**

(2) Sediment Management

(a) Effective three years after rule adoption, soil erosion associated with agricultural cultivation shall not deliver sufficient sediment to violate water quality standards.

*Conservation practices addressed here, such as the Positive Management Practices, may be eligible for USDA's Natural Resources Programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). These programs provide producers with financial, technical, and educational assistance for implementing conservation practices. Contact NRCS or FSA (below) for more information.*

*Development of an individual conservation plan for your operation may help you comply with the SB 1010 Coos & Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plan. Contact the Coos SWCD Watershed Technical Specialist for assistance.*

### **For More Help Contact...**

Coos Soil and Water  
Conservation District (SWCD)  
382 N. Central Blvd.  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 396-6879  
www: <http://or.nacdnet.org/coosswcd/>

Oregon Dept. of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Division  
635 Capitol Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
(503) 986-4700

Natural Resources Conservation  
Service (NRCS)  
382 N Central Blvd  
Coquille, OR 97423  
(541) 396-2841

Farm Services Agency (FSA)  
380 N Central Blvd  
Coquille OR 97423  
(541) 396-4323

Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality  
340 N Front Street  
Coos Bay OR 97420  
(541) 269-2721 ext 27

OSU Extension Service  
Coos County Office  
290 N Central Blvd  
Coquille OR 97423  
(541) 396-3121 ext 240

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Information in this fact sheet was gathered from the Coos and Coquille Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Illustrations used by permission. Farm scene adapted from original artwork by Sandra Noel.

Stream bottom illustration by Sandra Noel, Adopting A Stream A Northwest Handbook, Adopt-A-Stream Foundation, 1988.

Water crossing from Tualatin River Watershed.

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Produced by Bessie Joyce, 2002.

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