

Example Water Resources Sections (Resource Category 3)

Water Resources Example 1

Resource assessment

Our property is in the headwater area of a small non-fish seasonal (Type Ns) creek which forms within the site. The stream is a tributary of the Swiftwater River. The stream primarily flows through stand 1. There are also some small seeps in stand 3 and 4 which create small pocket forested wetlands. There are no classic hydric soils on the site. The stream provides amphibian habitat and a water source for wildlife. The whole property aids in infiltration of water into the water table and helps contribute to water quality and quantity.

Management recommendations

The hydrologic function of the forested hillslopes, headwater stream and forested wetland are an integral part of water quality and quantity to Swiftwater River. The soils are permeable, rich and organic with vegetation and root growth capturing and infiltrating runoff from adjacent hillsides as well as direct precipitation, reducing excess runoff. Good canopy cover provides shade helping maintain cool water temperatures. The stream will be buffered according to best adaptive management practices available.

Water Resources Example 2

Resource assessment

There are no riparian or wetland areas on our property.

Management recommendations

While we may not have water resources on our property, our activities can still impact the watershed. We will exercise sound stewardship by managing runoff, harvesting rainwater for agricultural (gardening) purposes, avoiding the use of any chemical products that could infiltrate the water table, and exercising caution or restraint when operating vehicles on wet terrain.

Water Resources Example 3

Resource assessment

There are two streams that cut through the property. The stream running west-to-east through Stands 1 and 2 has been re-classified by WA DNR to “potential fish-bearing” (Type F). This central stream in Stand 1 flows year-round, but at a much lower level during dry summers.

Moist riparian areas border the streams. There is also a wet area on the east side of Stand 2 that is indicated by the presence of skunk cabbage and other wetland plants in the open, non-timber area abutting the stand. This wet area results from the decreased slope and the frequent flashes of water during heavy and prolonged rain events. Tree frogs are prevalent. Two very old skid trails are present. However, they are not used for roads now and have not been for at least 60 years. In one spot at the edge of Stand 2, a narrow 10-foot-long area of reed canary grass is growing.

Management recommendations

Riparian vegetation will be protected. Within Stand 1, the stream banks are fairly steep and currently populated with sword fern, huckleberry, and vine maple. Large, mature conifers and deciduous trees provide shade for the riparian areas. The property owner will test the quality of water in primary west-east stream in Stands 1 and 2. We will encourage native plant growth in these areas and manage against invasive species. Should timber harvest occur, prescribed buffers for harvesting and equipment use will be observed per Washington Forest Practices Rules. We will retain woody debris in the streams.

We will also protect the seeps by keeping equipment and noxious weeds out and by maintaining a vegetated border around the seeps. These small water sources can serve as amphibian breeding pools and provide drinking water for small animals. The vegetated borders will continue to provide forage and hiding cover.

We will continue to work to eradicate the reed canary grass using an approved chemical and a quick re-vegetation effort with native species as quickly as possible after treatment. We will seed native grasses and legumes on the old skid trails.

