



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.