

## APPENDIX J STREAM DEFINITIONS

Stream definitions and SMZ widths are applied based on two categories (perennial and defined channels) and guidelines for their application are found in the forest-wide standards. The use of SMZ protection areas and guidelines supersedes the management prescription for any mapped allocations.

**Perennial streams** - These features support water flow, and/or water pools through the greater part of the year, or otherwise provide year-round aquatic organism habitat. These features have well defined stream channels and banks. If riparian ecosystems are found adjacent to the perennial streams, management activities will be consistent with Management Area 3.I standards.

Perennial streams are best identified in the field through stream survey techniques, landscape modeling, and aquatic habitat surveys. In the absence of one of these identification methods, streams and rivers should receive the perennial stream designation for project planning purposes.

**Defined channels** - This category provides direction for some intermittent and all ephemeral streams. A defined channel is a feature that clearly exhibits most of the following characteristics:

- ▶ Displays signs of water flow velocity sufficient to move soil material, litter, and fine debris.
- ▶ Shows a defined bank and streambed.
- ▶ Shows accumulated deposits of sands and gravels.
- ▶ Is continuously connected with other hydrologic features.

This includes channels that may only support water flow immediately following a precipitation event; bed forms that can include large, stable rocks; and areas that possibly support riparian-dependent plants and animals. Furthermore, defined channels will not support year-round aquatic organism habitat.

By using only two categories for categorizing surface water, the traditional intermittent stream classification was abandoned. These streams are incorporated into the two categories based on the presence or absence of year-round aquatic habitat. This is identified as the location of the first pool encountered from an upstream point during July to October as determined in the field. All portions of the stream downstream from such point would be identified as perennial. This means that from year to year the perennial/defined channel division may migrate.

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