

## MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES FOR STREAMSIDE AREAS

### MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Streamside filter strips shall be managed primarily to maintain and enhance water quality. Secondary benefits to wildlife, fisheries dependence, recreation, and visual resources may also be realized. A filter strip shall be designated adjacent to all streams, perennial or intermittent. Perennial and intermittent streams will be designated as "protected streams" in the timber sale contract. Ephemeral channels will ordinarily not be so designated. Coordinating requirements for ephemeral channels will be achieved through sale administration.

Actions within or affecting riparian areas will include protection, and, where applicable, improvement of dependent resources. Other resource uses and activities will occur to the extent they support or do not adversely affect the maintenance of riparian area dependent resources. Preferential consideration is given to riparian area dependent resources over other resources and activities where conflicts occur (FSM 2526.03, item (2)). The vital linkage among actions in the watershed and impacts on riparian areas must be considered in all inventories, plans, and management.

### DEFINITIONS

It should be recognized that distinctions between the three classes of streams will not always be clear-cut. Use prudent judgment in determining appropriate classification. Consult Forest Soil & Water staff if in doubt.

Perennial stream - A stream or portion of a stream that flows continuously with the possible exception of during extended dry periods. (Use Geological Survey topographic maps as guide).

Intermittent Stream - A stream or portion of a stream that ordinarily flows during the winter and spring months, but ceases to flow during the drier seasons. (Use Geological Survey topographic maps as guide).

Ephemeral Channel - Watercourse on which water run-off flows only in direct response to excess precipitation and whose channel is at all times above the water table (Not effected internally by spring seeps or ground water). The channel occupies sideslope positions not capable of filter strip components and the channel is not entrenched to concentrate flow as are perennial and intermittent streams.

The definitions clarify the landform location and definition of the Ephemeral channel as distinguished from bottomland (Flood plain) streams that confine a water body (entrenched, ground water effected) either all season or alternately during the seasons. In addition, to exclude filter strips from sideslopes and keep them where they have a chance to function in association with flood plain streams/rivers.

Extent of Filter Strips - Where the stream occurs in or is bordered by a landform coded and mapped as 1, 2, or 3 on a Soils Resource Inventory 1/, the width of the filter strip will generally correspond to the width of the landform as mapped in the SRI. The filter strip will be maintained at all times and not disturbed in site preparation. Generally, these landforms will be between two and six chains in total width. Where the landform is less than two chains wide, it will usually not be recorded on the SRI map. In such cases the filter strip shall be a minimum of 1 chain in total width (1/2 chain, each side). In the case of an exceptionally wide code 1, 2, or 3 landform, the width of the filter strip shall be determined on a case by case basis, depending on the significance of the stream, and the sensitivity of the soils. Generally, this will be done by the prescriber and the District Ranger, reviewed by the Forest ID Team, and approved by the Forest Supervisor. In cases where the soils have not been inventoried, the District Ranger, as advised by the soil scientist and/or the wildlife biologist, will decide the filter strip width based on landforms and how they are expected to be mapped on the Soils Resource Inventory. The filter strip shall extend all the way to the head of the drain, and shall include any seep areas located around drain-heads. Further guidelines are described in training material "Streamside Protection - Filter Strip Training Material" (Holzer, 1984).

Mechanical equipment is not allowed in any defined stream channel except to cross at designated points, and may not expose more than 10 percent mineral soil in filter strips along lakes, perennial or intermittent springs and streams, wetlands, or water-source seeps. The strip's width in feet is at least 30 plus 1.5 times the percent slope. Soil and debris are not deposited in lakes, streams, wetlands, springs, or seeps.

**MANAGEMENT (COORDINATING REQUIREMENTS) FOR STREAMSIDE FILTER STRIPS**

**(1) Perennial Streams**

<u>Permitted</u>	<u>Prohibited</u>
--Timber harvest and reforestation activities within a strip (minimum of 66') each side of	--Felling of trees in stream (except as necessary for fisheries management).

1/ SOILS RESOURCE GUIDE – SOUTHERN REGION

**Permitted**

the stream will be managed by utilizing small openings up to two acres in size.

--Cable skidding.

--Mechanized equipment more than 1/2-chain from streambank when soil is sufficiently dry to exclude rutting.

--Use only those pesticides that do not impair the water quality or aquatic habitat.

**(2) Intermittent Streams**

**Permitted**

--Timber harvest and reforestation activities.

--Cable skidding.

--Mechanized equipment more than 1/2-chain from streambank when soil is sufficiently dry to exclude rutting.

**Prohibited**

--Slash in stream.

--Mechanized equipment within 1/2-chain of streambank except at necessary designated crossings.

--Rutting 1/

--Roads, except at necessary designated crossings. Necessary crossings built to standards in Forest Service Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges.

--Log landings.

--Exposure of more than 10% of mineral soil within 1/2 chain of streambank.

--Prescribed burning.

--Minerals developments.

**Prohibited**

--Felling of trees in stream (except as necessary for fisheries management).

--Slash in stream.

--Mechanized equipment within 1/2-chain of streambank except at necessary, designated crossings.

**Permitted**

--Use only those pesticides that do not impair the water quality.

**Prohibited**

--Rutting 1/

--Roads, except as necessary designated crossings. Necessary crossings built to Standards in Forest Service Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges.

--Log landings.

--Exposure of more than 10% of mineral soil within 1/2 chain of streambank.

--Prescribed burning.

--Minerals developments.

--\*Removal of any woody under-story vegetation within five feet of the bank.\*

**(3) Ephemeral Channels**

**Permitted**

--Timber harvest and reforestation activities

--Mechanized equipment when Soils are sufficiently dry.

--Prescribed burning, provided no more than 25% of the mineral soil is exposed

**Prohibited**

--Rutting 1/

--Roads (\*).

--Log landings.

--Mineral developments.

1/ See definition of rutting in FSM 2472.41e, National Forests in Mississippi Supplement #117. Realistically, it is recognized that some rutting will occur in these areas as a result of management activities. Caution should be exercised to keep rutting to the very minimum degree possible, consistent with overall management objectives.

(\*) Assigning designated crossings on roads is not needed as this is not an entrenched stream. Roads should not be permitted through these sideslope drains. The only exception would be for a necessary emergency – not for convenience.

The precautions for pesticide use should be the same for other areas of the upland positions.