

Streamside Area Management

Ag Water Quality Plan Fact Sheet

March 2002

A healthy streamside area provides adequate vegetation to trap sediment, shades the water, and protects farmland from bank erosion. Leaving or re-establishing native plants along waterways, providing off-site watering facilities, fencing off riparian areas and establishing buffer strips along field borders are cost effective ways to maintain healthy streams and rivers. Also, allowing marginal land to revert to wetland provides ideal habitat for wildlife while minimizing the effects of flooding. It is relatively easy to determine if your land is under compliance with the Ag Water Quality Plan erosion limits. Streamside areas generally fall into three classes: 1) Streamside BMPs are clearly visible and working, 2) No problems are visible but absence of BMPs leaves room for improvement, and 3) Evidence clearly indicates non-compliance with Ag Water Quality Plan rules.

1) BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)



Native plants and shrubs help maintain a healthy riparian area.



Off-site watering facilities prevent trampling of stream banks.



Fencing off stream banks is an excellent way to provide buffers.



Well vegetated waterways feeding into streams filter out sediments.

Yamhill River Basin SB 1010 Ag Water Quality Standards



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2) ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT



Adding native shrubs or trees would improve habitat and cool the stream.



Sacrifice areas may be needed to allow animals access to drinking water.

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3) CLEAR INDICATORS OF NON-COMPLIANCE



Total lack of vegetation has lead to severe problems on this stream bank.



Fencing livestock near streams leads to both erosion and pollution.



Banks that are not fenced off from grazing are prone to erosion.



Livestock traffic wears down banks and their waste pollutes waterways.