

Stream Bank Collapsing Upstream



Duncan Creek Stream Turbidity

Sediments in suspension in a stream or other water body can have a significant impact on the water quality because sediments decrease water clarity, which reduces visibility. Water clarity is usually measured as turbidity. Turbid waters prevent the growth of aquatic plants and algae (because plants need light for photosynthesis) and decrease the ability of fish to find food or to detect predators and prey, thereby increasing stress. Sediments may smother stream invertebrates which are an important food source for fish.

Contaminates that can be carried in sediment include toxic chemicals from roadway runoff, bacteria from pet waste, nutrients from fertilizers used for lawns and agriculture. Some of the significant impacts of sediment on water quality & wildlife. The effects of excessive siltation in streams and other water bodies to fish include: Decreased water clarity which reduces visibility for fish seeking food - Damage to fish gills and filter feeding ability of the prey fish feed upon - Changes to streambed bottom when sediment buries gravel bed spawning areas - Reduction in invertebrate food sources due to smothering from silt deposits - Deposits of polluted sediment from storm water runoff causing stream contamination.