

Water



Volunteer Name: _____

Profession: _____ Employer: _____

Observing a Stream

FILL IN THE BLANKS on your stream walk:

1. A riparian area is a zone along streams, or around ponds or lakes, which provides unique habitat for plants and animals.
2. Maintaining vegetation near a stream helps cool the water by providing shade.
Vegetation also provides nutrients and shelter for aquatic animals.
3. The Forest Practices Act requires buffers to be left along streams because the vegetation acts as a filter for soil to protect water quality.
4. Identify three things in this stream that make it good habitat for fish
possible answers: shade, woody debris for hiding places, stream meandering
1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Making a Stream

Use the stream simulator to investigate each condition suggested below.

	How might this affect water quality?	How might this affect fish habitat?
Make the stream channel as straight as possible.	Water moves at higher speed; transports more sediment.	Causes little habitat diversity, and removes hiding cover.
Place "large logs" or "boulders" in the stream to change the flow.	Slows water, allows sediment to settle; higher water temperatures.	Provides more varied habitat; backwater areas.
Establish a riparian buffer of trees and other plants.	Increases shade, decreases temperature; filters sediments.	Increases shade, decreases temperature; provides hiding areas and food sources.