
APPENDIX A: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anthropogenic Changes related to human actions;

Bank Stabilization Securing of a stream bank by use of vegetation, vegetation materials, or some man-made structure;

Bar An alluvial ridge-like deposit of sand, gravel, or other material at any point in the stream, where a decrease in velocity induces deposition;

Berm A raised bank of soil constructed to contain water;

Biotechnical Combining structural, biological, and ecological concepts to construct living structures for erosion, sediment, and flood control;

Canopy The overhead branches and leaves of stream-side vegetation;

Conveyance Flow capacity of a watercourse dependent on cross-sectional characteristics including friction created by bankside vegetation;

Container Receptacle used by nurseries to grow plant material used in revegetation projects;

Cover Structure Any structure designed to provide aquatic species from predators or ameliorate adverse conditions of streamflow and/or seasonal changes in metabolic costs to aquatic species; often installed at the toe of a bank;

Cross-Sectional Geometry The 2-dimensional shape of the channel considered perpendicular to flow;

Cutting A plant section originating from stem, leaf, or root and capable of developing into a new plant;

Design Flow Event/Flow Event The given flow for which an engineering project (e.g., bank stabilization) is designed to withstand. A design flow is generally referred to in terms of the long-term frequency of recurrence, in years, e.g., the “25-year design flow;”

Discharge Volume of water flowing for a given unit of time, usually expressed as cubic feet per second (cfs);

Erosion The wearing away of soil and rock by weathering, mass wasting, and the action of streams, glaciers, waves, wind and underground water;

Filter Layer The layer of fabric, sand, gravel, and/or graded rock

placed between a bank revetment and soil for the purpose of prevent the soil erosion through the bank revetment while allowing natural subsurface seepage through the bank;

Fluvial Produced by moving water in a river, creek, or stream;

Gabion A stone-filled box or tube formed from galvanized wire mesh panels or rolls having great flexibility and strength;

Geomorphology The geologic study of the evolution and configuration of landforms;

Geotechnical Involving the scientific and engineering principles of soil and rock mechanics;

Geotextiles Durable high tensile strength synthetic construction fabrics used for separation, filtration, drainage, reinforcement and erosion control of soils and crushed aggregates; biodegradable fabrics are make from natural fibers such as coir, jute, flax, remie, etc. and are used primarily for erosion control, also as soil reinforcement in conjunction with brush layering (live gabions) or short-term subsurface filters or as separators holding back soil behind geogrids in steep slopes pending establishment of vegetation;

Ground Pressure The amount of physical force that a piece of heavy machinery imposes on the earth; to avoid soil compaction, typically machinery should be used that exerts low ground pressure;

Herbicide A chemical agent used to destroy or inhibit plant growth;

Humus Decayed organic matter that lies beneath the litter layer and above the mineral soil;

Hydraulic Refers to water, or other liquid(s), in motion and its action;

Invasive Species Non-native species that spread rapidly, displacing native and/or desired agricultural species;

Keyed A structure is said to be “keyed into” a bank if the upstream, downstream, and/or toe of the structure is embedded and secured within the bank material. If a structure is keyed in, the risk of scour along the edges of the structure is significantly reduced;

Left Bank The stream bank to the left as one is facing downstream;

Meander Bend One of a series of sinuous curves in the course of a

stream, produced as the stream shifts its course laterally toward the convex side of an original curve;

Non-Native Species Species introduced and occurring in locations beyond their known historical and natural range;

Noxious A particularly invasive, non-native species that effectively out-competes native plants;

Perlite A soil amendment of volcanic origin; also used as a desiccant;

Planform Channel Pattern The two-dimensional pattern of the channel as it appears from the air;

Propagule A plant structure (as a cutting or a seed) used to propagate plants;

Radicle Belonging to or proceeding from a root; the embryonic root of a seedling;

Revegetation The planting of vegetation following either manual removal of existing vegetation or gradual dying off of once-present vegetation;

Rhizome Underground stem, usually lateral, sending out shoots above ground and roots below;

Right Bank The stream bank to the right as one is facing downstream;

Riprap A layer of rock placed along a surface to prevent erosion, scour, or sloughing of a structure or surface;

Root Protector Structure usually fabricated from metal wire and fitted in planting hole; used to protect plant roots from damage from small mammals including voles and gophers;

Scour The localized removal of material from the stream bed by flowing water;

Seed Set Time when seed matures and becomes viable, usually occurring on the parent plant;

Shear Stress Force per area acting over a wetted surface inducing by flow in a watercourse;

Soil Compaction An increase in soil density generally resulting from human activity such as use of heavy equipment over soils;

Stage The elevation of a water surface above or below an established datum or reference;

Terrace A relatively level bench or step-like surface that breaks the continuity of a slope. Ledge or step formed in banks by natural processes or artificially created, usually wider than 5 ft;

Thalweg The line connecting the lowest points along a stream bed in the direction of flow;

Toe Base of bank or wall;

Wing Deflector A linear structure designed to deflect streamflow to a different location, usually away from an eroding bank. When wing deflectors extend from each bank toward the thalweg, the structures act to focus and deepen the low flow channel;