AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

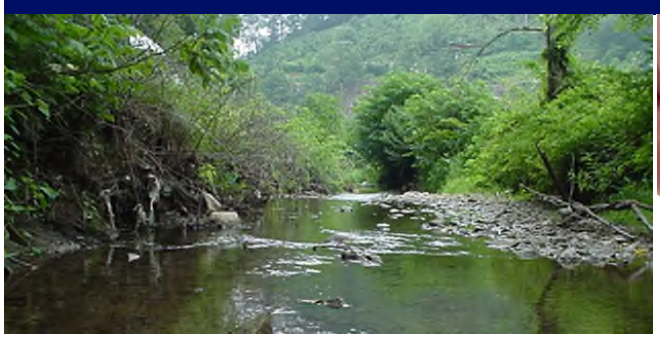

Photo courtesy of DOW

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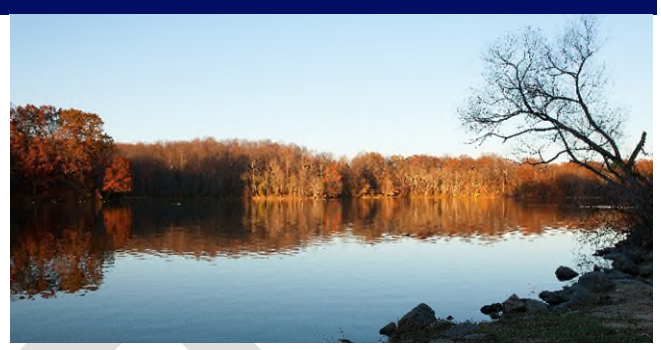

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | **FUNDING ASSISTANCE** | **IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

PROPER STREAM DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE

STREAMS & OTHER WATERS BMP #4

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Description:
Guidelines to remove obstructions to flow, such as log jams and sediment blockages.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
When removing obstructions to control stream flow, follow the best management practices outlined in the Guidelines for the One-step Removal of Stream Flow Obstructions and the following minimum requirements: **1)** Material removed from the channel or floodway should be placed sufficiently upland outside of the floodplain to prevent runoff from entering streams and/or wetlands. **2)** Temporary or permanent disposal and/or side-casting of removed material into wetlands, stream tributaries, side ditches, or other surface water is not allowed under one-step removal and requires state and federal approval. **3)** The removal of vegetation should be limited to snags, loose debris and vegetation which obstructs stream flow. The stumps and roots of trees and/or shrubs should be left undisturbed to protect against erosion. **4)** Access routes for efficient operation of equipment should minimize disturbance to the floodplain and riparian areas. All work should be performed outside of the flowing section(s) of the stream. Do not use the stream as a road. If entry into the stream channel is unavoidable, use rubber track/tire equipment. **5)** All disturbed areas outside of the stream channel should be restored to original conditions, reseeded or replanted with native riparian species, and mulched in order to prevent erosion and sedimentation. See the suggested riparian species planting list. **6)** If necessary, equipment which can scoop or lift material out of the channel from the stream bank is recommended for this type of work. Material should not be pushed against the banks or piled in the channel. **7)** Activities should take place during low-flow or no flow conditions (during late summer or fall). **8)** Removal of materials should not be conducted during the fish-spawning season (April 15 to June 15). **9)** Prevent petroleum products such as lubricating, engine, or transmission oils and greases, etc. from entering surface waters. Washing, fueling, or servicing of equipment is prohibited where spillage or wash water can impact surface waters. **10)** For sediment (sand or gravel) bar excavation, only the material more than 12 inches above the normal water elevation should be removed. **11)** Maintain the cross-sectional area of stream. Do not widen or straighten the stream. If the Guidelines for One-step Removal of Stream Flow Obstructions, Section II Regulatory Requirements, or AWQA Minimum Requirements cannot be met, a Water Quality Certification may be required from the Division of Water, Water Quality Certification Section.

Recommendations:
1) Use the DOW Stream Maintenance Application to identify the stream name and the latitude and longitude coordinates of the proposed project. **2)** The landowner will then develop plans for the debris removal. **3)** When the location and construction information is available, contact the Division of Water Floodplain Management and Water Quality Certification Sections for regulatory guidance.

Technical References

State Resources
- Kentucky EPSC Field Guide
- Guidelines for One-step Removal of Stream Flow Obstructions
- DOW Stream Maintenance FAQ
- Clean Water Act of 1972, 33 USC §1251 and §1341 *et seq.*

Funding Assistance Options

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)
- Select from available program options here.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Select from available program options here.

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧