AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

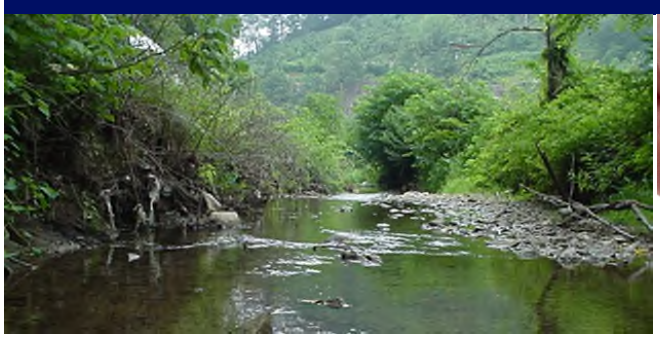

Photo courtesy of DOW

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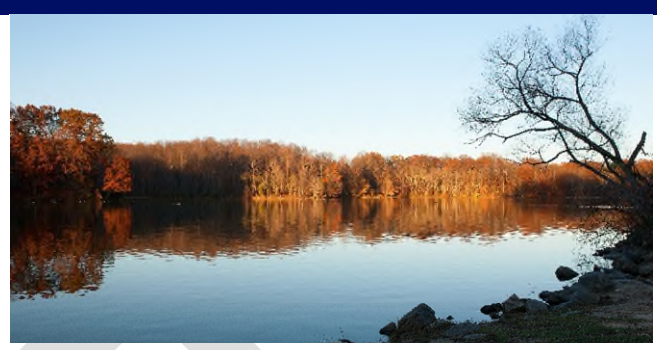

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	FUNDING ASSISTANCE	IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

SAND AND GRAVEL REMOVAL

STREAMS & OTHER WATERS BMP #2

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Description:
Sand and gravel removal guidelines along streams or other waters.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
When removing obstructions to control stream flow, follow the guidelines outlined in the Guidelines for the One-step Removal of Stream Flow Obstructions and the following minimum requirements:
1) The material removed from the channel or floodway should be placed upland/landward outside of the floodplain enough to prevent the runoff from entering streams and/or wetlands. **2)** The 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 require state and federal approval. **3)** Vegetation removal is limited to the removal of 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. Contact the Division of Water, Water Quality Certification Section for additional information.

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

Technical References

State Resources
- DOW Stream Maintenance FAQ
- Kentucky EPSC Field Guide
- Guidelines for One-step Removal of Stream Flow Obstructions

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 (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧