

Deposition – Settling out of sediment loads, which results in shallows, bars, and lateral channel movement.

Dike – An embankment to control flooding, usually on or near the banks of a stream (see Levee).

Entrenchment – The degree to which a stream is vertically contained within its channel and the valley floor. Some stream types may be naturally entrenched, other have been entrenched by the use of dikes or other artificial structures.

Fascine – A long bundle of branches or other material placed to prevent erosion and soil movement.

Fish ladder – Angle iron or other baffles placed in a culvert to improve fish passage upstream.

Gabion – A wire mesh basket filled with rock.

Geotextiles – Fabric or matting made from natural fibers such as coconut or jute, sometimes woven into a plastic mesh.

Head cutting – The upstream migration of the stream bottom due to erosion. A steep break in channel slope or bed, often unstable and migrates upstream.

Incised – A stream is said to be incised when the bankfull flows (1.5- to 2-year) cannot reach the floodplain.

Lateral instability – A condition where a stream channel is prone to migrating side-to-side across its floodplain.

Levee – An embankment to control flooding, usually set back from the banks of a stream (see Dike).

Ordinary High Water Mark - Defines the boundaries of streams, and other aquatic features, for a variety of federal, state, and local regulatory purposes. Generally, OHWM corresponds to bankfull elevation.

Point bar – The silt, gravel, or cobble that extends into the water from the inside of a bend or meander.

Revetment – A facing of trees, stones, or other material to reinforce a streambank.

Resting pool - A deep pool downstream of the outlet of a culvert that allows fish to rest before swimming through the culvert.

Riparian – Areas adjacent to or influenced by water from streams and rivers.

Scour - The removal of underwater material by waves or current, especially at the base of a stream bank or shoreline.

Thalweg - The deepest part of a stream channel, where the fastest current usually occurs.

Toe - The base of a slope or stream bank.

GLOSSARY

- Aggradation – Filling in, deposition; a reach where sediment accumulates in the channel is said to be aggrading.
- Armoring – A layer of stone or other suitable material placed in the stream to protect the banks from erosion.
- Avulsion – Creation of a new channel, usually during flood conditions.
- Backfill – Adding dirt or gravel to replace material removed during construction.
- Backwater – A rise in the water level upstream of an obstruction or constriction in the channel.
- Bankfull discharge – The flow rate that moves sediment and forms or removes bars and meanders to maintain the average characteristics of a stream. In many stream types, it is associated with the flow that just fills the natural channel to the top of its banks and at a point where the water begins to overflow onto the active floodplain.
- Bankfull elevation – The point where water fills the channel at bankfull discharge, in most cases just before beginning to spill onto the floodplain. Indicators include a topographic break in bank slope, change in sediment characteristics, and change in vegetation.
- Bankfull width – The width of a channel measured at bankfull elevation.
- Bar – A submerged or partly submerged deposit of sediment and gravel within a stream channel.
- Bedload – Sediment or gravel that is not suspended in the stream but is rolled or dragged along the stream bottom.
- Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Guidelines for managing the use of a resource in a manner that protects the resource and promotes ecological and economic sustainability.
- Channel migration – The movement or shifting of a stream channel across the width of its floodplain as banks erode and point bars expand.
- Channel pattern – The winding of a stream channel as seen from above (in plan view).
- Channel profile – The shape of a stream channel along its length or longitudinal axis. A stream's profile shows the nature and amount of elevation change over a given reach.
- Channel slope – The gradient of a stream's bed; the downhill angle over which a stream flows.
- Channelization – Straightening of a reach, or confinement within constructed earthfill (or other object).
- Deadman – A buried log serving as an anchor.
- Degradation – Scouring; a reach where sediment is removed is said to be degrading; often downcutting the bed.