River Restoration

DEERE

River Engineering: Flood Control...



River Restoration: Habitat Improvement







Habitat Scales



The supply and transport of water, sediment, and wood interact to structure salmon habitat.



Over what range of scales does LWD influence channels?



River Restoration



Application of general principles to the context of a particular site.

- 1. Assessment / diagnosis
- 2. Design
- 3. Implementation
- 4. Monitoring

10 Commandments of River Restoration

- I. Do no harm
- II. Look beyond the channel to assess it in context
- III. Use native materials
- IV. Emulate natural analogs
- V. Let the channel do the work
- VI. Let the channel use its floodplain
- VII. Manage inputs to the system so that the river can fix itself
- VIII.Use direct manipulation of the channel only as a last resort
- IX. Allow for changes authored by the river
- X. Use appropriate personnel to scope and design restoration efforts.

Context, Context, Context

Spatial: What kind of stream is it?

Temporal: What is its disturbance history?

What kind of stream is it?

Braided, meandering, straight?

Cascade, Step-Pool, Plane-Bed, Pool-Riffle?

River Restoration



River Restoration



Wood in rivers

Wood acts as an impediment to flow that can cause flow to converge and scour out pools that provide important habitat



Extent of global forests

Forests have covered about one-third of the Earth's land surface during the Holocene.

But the extent of forest cover has changed substantially ...









Few of the worlds forests retain "frontier" conditions



Much of our understanding of river systems was developed in areas that either lacked large wood or that had been cleared of wood debris.



To what degree are our perceptions of the role of wood in rivers due to such historic legacies?

Snags on the Missouri Karl Bodmer, circa 1850



Log jams were significant obstacles to navigation and land development in the western U.S.





Army Corps of Engineers aggressively "desnagged" American Rivers

Thousands of snags were removed from Puget Sound rivers between 1880 and the mid-20th Century



Channel Unit Scale

Greater wood loading leads to more pools

For channels we've surveyed in Alaska and Washington, a plane-bed morphology occurs only at low LWD loading

Reach Scale

LWD can control the formation of pools and bars, and thereby channel reach morphology

Valley Segment Scale

Log jams trap copious amounts of sediment and aggrade entire reaches of channel.

Valley Segment Scale

Both locally recruited trees and log jams delivered by debris flows can create alluvial valley bottoms in confined mountain streams.

Log jams can influence even large rivers

Watershed Scale

Effects of Wood in Rivers

How big does a log have to be in order to influence a river?

LWD Size and Channel Size Govern LWD Stability & Influence

River Restoration

Restoration of "natural" wood loading would take centuries because of the time needed to grow large, "key member" logs that can shape aquatic habitat.

ELJs: Engineered Log Jams

Engineered log jams are in-stream flow control structures based on the architecture of naturally occurring, stable log jams.

Log Jam Placement

Floodplain channel dug

Log Placement

T.Abbe 3/2000

Cowlitz River Engineered Log Jams, 25 yr flood event 5 weeks after construction

Changes at the Cowlitz Site: 12/95 to 04/97

Floodplain setbacks

Levee relocation to allow floodway along rivers becoming increasingly popular as a restoration measure

Re-meandering, Undoing channelization

Kissimmee River, Florida

Provo River, Utah

Lower Duwamish River, Seattle

Restored reach formerly in a straight culvert, Berkeley, CA

Uvas Creek, January 1996

Uvas Creek, July 1997

Uvas Creek "restoration" project

Urban channels

Few opportunities for restoration

Cuyahoga River, 1952

What does it take to design a restoration project?

[The Grand Canyon] is, of course, altogether valueless. It can be approached only from the south, and after entering it there is nothing to do but leave. Ours has been the first, and will doubtless be the last, to visit this profitless locality. It seems intended by nature that the Colorado River, along the greater portion of its lonely and majestic way, shall be forever unvisited and undisturbed.

- Lieutenant Joseph C. Ives, report to Congress on the Colorado River, 1861