

Technical Issues with Crediting Protocols

Joe Berg

Biohabitats

Bank and Bed Stabilization

- Armoring an incised channel
 - This may do nothing to improve our stream resources, though it may reduce bank and bed erosion in the project reach- projects like this shouldn't receive credits
- It would be ideal to reduce stream power being released to the unprotected downstream reach
 - This doesn't happen as often as it should, with increased energy resulting in greater erosion of bed and banks downstream of the restoration project

Hyporheic Processing

- A bank height ratio of 1 is not a good indicator
 - its just a ratio between an imaginary bankfull channel dimension and the actual channel dimension

What is Floodplain Connection?

- A **great definition** would be “any stream stage increase results in riparian zone or floodplain connection”
- A **terrible definition** would be “any stream flow increase associated with a 1.5 year return interval storm or greater results in riparian or floodplain connection”
- We also need to recognize that the benefit from connection is the
 - increased surface area of ‘nature’ the water comes in contact with
 - increased duration of this flow in contact with ‘nature’
 - Resulting reductions in flow velocity
- Not any ‘detention pond’ analogous function based on watershed inch storage volume