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For details about Riverkeeper go to:
www.SpokaneRiverkeeper.org
www.ecy.wa.gov

SPOKANE® RIVERKEEPER

WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE

Please see our partner organization WHAT'S UPSTREAM for additional information:
www.whatsupstream.com

Working for a fishable, swimmable Spokane River.

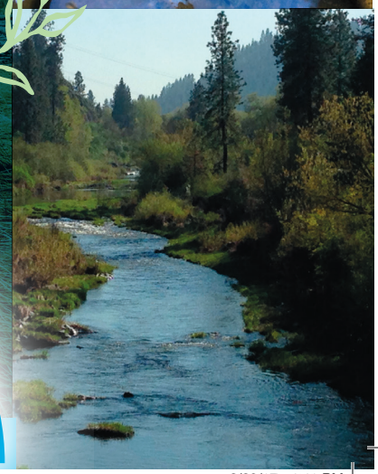
Photo Credits: Riverkeeper, Deanna Camp, Silver Bow Fly Shop

WHY DO *Shoreline Forests* MATTER?

BECAUSE WE ALL BENEFIT FROM *Clean, Healthy* STREAMS & RIVERS

Every stream or river needs healthy, living forest along its shorelines to protect it from the elements and to sustain life.
This blanket of bushes and trees on the banks keeps the water cool and acts as a filter to remove harmful chemicals and runoff from our streets and agricultural practices.

Shoreline forests protect our streams, rivers and quality of life.



Clean Streams Healthy Shores
A Spokane Riverkeeper Initiative

Deadman Creek headwaters with no shoreline forest

Hangman Creek headwaters with direct exposure to agriculture damage

Hangman Creek lacks shoreline forest in this region due to livestock grazing

Damaged shorelines along Hangman Creek cause pollution in the Spokane River

Shorelines damaged by cattle grazing

Aerial view of Hangman Creek pollution entering the Spokane River

DESTRUCTIVE PRACTICES TAKE THEIR TOLL ON OUR WATERSHED.

1. *Streamside forests protect rivers*
2. *Streamside forests are a buffer between clean streams and the land use around it because they intercept the pollution*
3. *Streamside forests keep water cool by providing shade and insulation*
4. *Streamside forests are essential for ecosystems as they are critical habitat for birds, fish and insects*
5. *Runoff from farms, golf courses, streets and yards, pollutes water and kills fish*
6. *Harmful runoff includes chemical pesticides, fertilizers, mud, gas and oil*
7. *Unprotected stream banks allow pollution to enter our waterways*

Scientists call streamside forests riparian zones. These forests are also called buffers because they filter runoff and direct sunlight, protecting the cool, clean water of the stream.

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Land owners have removed healthy forests from Hangman Creek's banks. These actions are creating fatal water temperatures for organisms and allowing pollutants to be washed directly into the creek where they are carried downstream to the Spokane River. Destroying shoreline forests infringes upon the public's right to clean water.

THE RESULTS TO THE ECOSYSTEM

Fish like native redband trout cannot live in our streams as they once did. Essential bugs are gone, mud fills the bottom of the creek bed, and harmful algae grow in the water. Without trees, the stream warms and the ecosystem collapses. Spokane River tributaries, in particular Deadman Creek and Hangman Creek, are suffering from poor land use practices that have damaged the shoreline forest upstream. In the Hangman Creek basin as much as 50,000 to 150,000 tons of mud and topsoil run into the creek each year. This pollution has destroyed Hangman Creek and causes downstream problems for the entire Spokane River ecosystem.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- If you see a stretch of stream without streamside buffers, know that this is causing pollution.
- If you see someone illegally tearing out brush and trees along a shoreline, or livestock grazing in a creek, please call the **Department of Ecology (509) 329-3400** and/or the **Spokane Riverkeeper (509) 464-7614.**