



Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building, Room 443
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Bozeman, MT 59715

March 28, 2002

**NATIONAL ENGINEERING HANDBOOK (NEH) FILING SYSTEM (PARTS 600 THROUGH 659)
210-VI
AMENDMENT MT22**

SUBJECT: ENG--NATIONAL ENGINEERING HANDBOOK (NEH), PART 653, STREAM CORRIDOR RESTORATION: PRINCIPLES, PROCESSES, AND PRACTICES, WATERSHED SCIENCE INSTITUTE TECHNICAL PROCEDURE ON STREAM CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Purpose. To distribute a copy of a stream corridor assessment technique entitled Stream*A*Syst - A Tool to Help You Examine Stream Conditions on Your Property for inclusion in the National Engineering Handbook, Part 653, STREAM CORRIDOR RESTORATION: PRINCIPLES, PROCESSES, AND PRACTICES.

Effective Date. This amendment is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Material. The Nation's 3.5 million miles of rivers, streams, associated riparian and wetland corridors are important for their economic, social, and ecological values. Issues such as water quality degradation, loss of endangered and threatened species, habitat fragmentation, and urban sprawl are increasing the concern of landowners to protect and restore stream corridor systems.

To help address these issues, the Oregon State Office and the Watershed Science Institute helped in publishing and authoring the attached Extension Service publication that empowers a landowner to complete a simple and direct worksheet of stream corridor conditions. The document also provides an action plan for a landowner to obtain followup assistance and chart a restoration strategy. One of the objectives in producing Stream*A*Syst was to share it with States for them to modify for local use. NRCS offices are given permission to adapt Stream*A*Syst, provided they include this acknowledgment within the publication: "Adapted from EM 8761, Stream*A*Syst (Oregon State University Extension Service), reprinted March 2001, 16 pages." This permission is granted for print and electronic delivery. When the publication is completed, NRCS offices are to notify and provide a copy (and/or URL) to the Publishing Specialist, Extension and Station Communications, Oregon State University, 422 Kerr Administration, Corvallis, Oregon 97331-2119.

Filing Instructions. In the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 600/609, General, insert the Montana Amendment 22 transmittal and remove and insert the revised Montana tabulation sheet. In the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 650/659, Field Handbooks, remove and insert the revised National tabulation sheet. In the National Engineering Handbook (NEH), Part 653, Stream Corridor Restoration Handbook, file the attached National transmittal letter dated February 28, 2002 in front of the binder. File the attachment, Stream*A*Syst, Analysis of Corridor Conditions at the end of Chapter 7 before the two Amendment MT12 Watershed Science Institute Technical Reports; Assessing Conditions of Riparian-Wetland Corridors at the Areawide Level and Stream Corridor Inventory and Assessment Techniques.

- MORE -

If additional copies are needed you can either copy the attached or retrieve the publication from the web at:
<http://www.wsi.nrcs.usda.gov/products/stream.html>.

Please contact ReNae Grantier at (406) 587-6822 if you have any questions or concerns.

/s/ by D. James Suit on (3/28/02) / rg

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State Conservation Engineer

Enclosures

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